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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Officials: 'Complete Deadlock' in Syrian Talks

TA2901072795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Negotiations between Israel and Syria are at a complete deadlock. This according to a Qol Yisra'el reporter who spoke to government officials in Jerusalem. According to the officials, the continued absence of Syria's ambassador from Washington is likely to prevent the renewal of talks, and the fact that U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross is not due to travel to the region is yet another indication of a standstill. They also pointed out that Syria has ignored Washington's request that they act against Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi, who resides in Damascus.

Israel To Wait 'Patiently' for Syria's Return to Talks

TA3001064395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Report by Arye Golan in Washington—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Golan] Washington does not know when Damascus will allow Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim to return to the United States from consultations that have been going on for a month. At the same time, in ongoing consultations in Washington, U.S. and Israeli officials decided to await him patiently. We will not beg or ask the Syrians to return to the talks, says Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States.

[Rabinovich] There is a time-out or a suspension of the talks at this time, introduced by the Syrians. Neither the Americans nor we are looking for or chasing anyone. If this is what the Syrians choose to do, they apparently have their reasons. If they had hoped that, in the wake of these moves, Israel or the Americans would court them, they were disappointed.

[Golan] At the same time, if and when the ambassadors talks resume, Israel will not demand that Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al- Shaqaqi be expelled from Damascus. Amb. Rabinovich said that we will have things to say to the Syrians regarding the Bet Lid attack, but it is not worth our while to get entangled in making demands that stand no chance of being met.

[Rabinovich] We must know how to defend our interests and do so with the fullest conviction. At the same time, we had better avoid backing ourselves into corners from which we might find it hard to get out.

[Golan] Does the fact that terror activity against Israel is being directed from Damascus change anything in the demands we will make in the negotiations with Syria?

[Rabinovich] I do not know that terror is being operated from Damascus. All we know at this time is that Fathi al-Shaqaqi published a statement in Damascus and that Syria has put its media at his disposal. These facts will have to be addressed. This, however, does not yet mean that terror is being directed from Damascus.

[Golan] The waiting period, therefore, continues.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Developments, Statements at Maghreb Meeting Reported

Foreign Ministers' To Discuss Terrorism

LD2701224395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2100 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] meeting of foreign ministers, which started yesterday will continue tomorrow. Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya placed terrorism among the issues to be discussed during the meeting.

[Begin Ben Yahya recording] Terrorism is an international phenomenon, not one just limited to our region. It has taken various forms, and it is important to have a joint perception of the challenge posed by terrorism to all the countries in the region. I believe that we are moving in the direction of a joint perception and also of a joint approach, not only at the security level, but at the global level, too. [end recording]

This 31st session of the Maghreban council is taking place on the eve of the end of the Algerian presidency of the UMA.

Algerian, Libyan Delegates Address Meeting

LD2801153495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The proceedings of the meeting of Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] foreign ministers, and ministers in charge of building the Arab Maghreb [as heard] opened in Algiers this morning to comprehensively asses the march of the Arab Maghreb Union under Algeria's presidency, and to prepare for the seventh summit, which will be convened in Algeria next March. Rachid Benhmemid reports:

[Benhmemid] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri this morning supervised the opening session of the joint meeting of UMA foreign ministers and the ministers in charge of building the Arab Maghreb. Mohamed Salah Dembri opened the session with a speech in which he reviewed the steps of the unionist action and the difficulties still obstructing the joint process.

Within this context, Mr. Dembri said that what we hope our Maghreb Union can achieve makes us say that the state our union is in now, and the results we have attained are, despite their positive aspects, still short of the aspirations of our citizens and countries, because these results have not been realised, and have not become tangible facts.

Mr. Dembri recalled the overall agreements, institutes and studies which have crowned the activities of the UMA, and the obstacles preventing it from achieving its aims.

Out of Algeria's keenness to push forward the unionist action, Mohamed Salah Demri presented a number of ideas and proposals regarding the organizational aspect, the classification and organization of the texts published by the union.

With regard to economic issues, he stressed the proposal of the Algerian delegation at the 29th session of the follow-up committee concerning the start of three integration projects—the manufacturing of metal reinforcing bars for buildings, railways, and pipelines.

He also urged the Algerian side to establish a Maghreban mechanism to seek finance sources available on regional and international levels, and utilizing all potential resources in this respect.

Mr. Dembri concluded the Algerian proposals by pointing to the failure of the current administrative structure of the union's secretariat to carry out its important role. This requires seeking a better way to enable it to move into an advanced stage.

The Libyan delegation, under the chairmanship of Jum'ah al-Mahdi al-Fazzani, praised the Algerian proposals and the effective role played by Algeria, and suggested giving the Maghreban Consultative Council and also the Maghreban Ministerial Committee more powers.

Following further discussions, the public session was adjourned and the participants left for the People's Palace, where they were received by the head of state, Liamine Zeroual. They then returned to resume their ordinary sessions.

This evening's session will be allocated to joint meetings between the foreign ministers, the ministers in charge of the Maghreb Union, and the follow-up committee, to enrich the proposals and recommendations.

Algeria's Dembri on Meeting's Results

LD2801223095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2100 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint meeting of North African foreign affairs ministers and ministers for construction of the Maghreb, which was held in Djinan el-Mithak, has ended with the Standing Committee's conclusions being adopted. Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri has given his reaction to the conclusions of the conference.

[Begin Dembri recording] What we should take away from this is that the proposals for decision-making will go some way toward improving the work to be done and the major legal problems that the Arab Maghreb Union is now facing. We must define what kind of relations the Maghreb countries have with one another. We know that it is a union of states, but what shape should it take? And this has an obvious connection with the decisions of a legal nature that will be made, since there is a relation between the international conventions that we sign up to and our national laws. Thus, we find ourselves at an important, and very interesting juncture.

The second aspect is the setting up of a Maghreban diplomacy. A great deal of progress has been made by the Algerian Presidency, in coordinating and defining common positions with regard to the principal problems facing the world. [end recording]

Algerian, Libyan Ministers on Results

LD2801231095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a late hour this evening, the joint meeting of the foreign ministers and the ministers in charge of building the Maghreb was concluded by the endorsement of the minutes of meetings of the follow-up committee after long hours of discussion and enrichment.

Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri evaluates the work of this important meeting at the microphone of colleague Abdelkader Djeridi:

[Dembri] First, in respect of building the infrastructure, you may have heard that we had proposed a number of projects to build economic integration, like the railroads and other projects that will get us tomorrow to full integration. Today there exists a Maghreban economic space and a perception concerning development—what we call the pattern of development [preceding words in French]—and what we should put here and there in order to achieve integration, not contradiction in the local development of each country. This we have agreed upon, the general perception.

Now we have to introduce year after year projects that will take us to a unified agricultural and farming policy. At the same time, we will build the Maghreban industrial base that will enable us to optimally use human resources available here and there, and so on and so forth—even in the educational field.

It seems to me that it is important that you explain that we have talked about the necessity of the civil community's participation,—in other words the nongovernmental general public, including the private sector—as contractors which are necessary to enter government action as a national party, without differentiation between the public and the private sectors.

[Djeridi] For his part, here is now Mr Jum'ah al-Fazzani, foreign affairs minister of the Libyan Jamahiriyah [title as heard], assessing this meeting and the union's march under the Algerian presidency of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA].

[Al-Fazzani] First, I would like to point out that the period of the presidency sisterly Algeria has, as I have said, been characterized with rationality, realism, and seriousness. That became clear in the serious handling of issues by the heads of the specialized ministerial committees, and also in Algeria's chairmanship of the UMA's council of ministers and other union institutions. [passage omitted]

Libya Declines UMA Chairmanship

LD2901194495 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother secretary of the General People'a Committee for Unity has informed the council of UMA [Arab Maghreb Union] foreign ministers, at their session on political consultations in Algiers today, of the decision of the Great Jamahiriyah not to chair the UMA presidential council or the institutions of the Union in its eighth session for objective considerations related essentially to the nature of work in the Union.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity asked the council of foreign ministers of the Union to take measures toward the decision of the Great Jamahiriyah.

The brother secretary pointed out that the Union has not been able to fulfill the aspirations of its masses and these masses are eager to achieve unity and integration and that the institutions of the Union have not been able to achieve the unionist aims stipulated in the agreement on the founding of the Union.

Arab, Islamic Parties Form Yemen-Based Anti-Israel Front

NC2901184195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Arab-Islamic committee consisting of 15 Islamic and Arab parties and professional associations has been established to confront Zionist infiltration in the Middle East. In a report from Damascus, IRNA says the committee will be based in the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

In its first statement, the committee stressed the Islamic nature of Palestinian territory and called on Muslims to use all their power to liberate this holy land from the dirty Zionists, describing this as a sacred duty. The statement calls on the Islamic and Arab countries to confront Zionist infiltration and to refrain from establishing any political or economic relations with the Zionist entity.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges Israel To 'Fully Meet' Accords

AU3001114695 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 30 Jan 95 p 117

[Interview with PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified DER SPIEGEL correspondent; place and date not given: "'Remain Optimistic'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Following the attack in Netanja, Israel wants to build a security fence around the occupied territories. At the same time, Jewish settlements around Jerusalem are to be expanded. Is this the end of the peace process?

['Arafat] Israelis and Palestinians have a right to live among their own. But let us be honest: Anyone who still builds Jewish settlements today and says they want to make peace with the Palestinians cannot be taken seriously.

[DER SPIEGEL] Has your confidence in the honesty and willingness for peace of your fellow Nobel peace prize winners Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres been shattered?

['Arafat] We are having enormous difficulties. Israel refuses to keep to what we have agreed. The negotiations have reached a deadlock.

[DER SPIEGEL] What are the main problems?

['Arafat] Mainly, the legislative assembly elections, the Palestinian autonomy council, and the agreed withdrawal of the Israeli occupation army from Palestinian centers. Also, we are still waiting to be granted long overdue authority in various vital fields.

[DER SPIEGEL] But cannot the PLO also be blamed for not sufficiently taking into account Israel's security interests? Rabin has demanded that you take firm action against the religious extremists of Islamic Hamas and the Islamic Jihad terrorist group.

['Arafat] Everybody knows that Palestinian security forces are determined to take care of law and order in the autonomous regions—Gaza and Jericho—this has also been confirmed to us by U.S. President Bill Clinton. No country in the world can prevent terrorist attacks 100 percent. Since our security forces started their job, the crime rate has dropped considerably—which is a basic precondition for holding free elections.

[DER SPIEGEL] What must be done to get the deadlocked peace process going again?

['Arafat] The constant postponing of the elections—they were to be held in July 1994—has had a devastating effect on the entire peace process. We are still doing everything we can to realize rapid solutions to major problems. Unless we want the spirit of Oslo to disappear into thin air, Israel must fully and immediately, without any ifs or buts, comply with the peace agreements. Any less won't do, period.

[DER SPIEGEL] But the result could be very different from what you are hoping for. Hamas has announced that they plan to boycott the elections; the Islamic extremists want to prevent the peace process from being ascribed a democratic hallmark.

['Arafat] I have reliable information that Hamas will take part in the elections. After all, the Islamist parties did not miss the opportunity to participate in the elections and send representatives to parliament in Jordan, or other Arab countries.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will you really allow all political parties to participate—communists as well as Hamas fundamentalists?

['Arafat] Yes, all political parties must be given the right to face the people; nobody must be excluded, even if some Israelis would like that to be the case.

[DER SPIEGEL] And what if the Israeli troops do not withdraw from the Palestinian centers on the West Bank in the near future and the elections you desire move further into the future?

['Arafat] I would like to remain optimistic. But I am warning: If the reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis fails, this will have perceptible negative effects throughout the Middle East and regarding world peace.

Hamas Spokesman on Clinton's Decision

NC2601195695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, by Jihad al-'Aydan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-'Aydan] How do you view the mounting campaigns of arrest and surveillance of mosques by the Zionist and 'Arafatist elements? Also, what are your predictions for the political and security dimensions of these campaigns?

[Ghawshah] No doubt, the increasing campaign against the mujahidin in Palestine falls within the context of the Zionist-U.S. scheme which seeks to eliminate the Islamic movements in Palestine or elsewhere. Consequently, tightening the noose around the mosques and other places is a U.S. plan that is being pursued by the Zionist entity and certain Arab regimes. Needless to say, the mosques belong to God first of all. The houses of God can under no circumstances become tools to implement the U.S. and Zionist schemes.

[Al-'Aydan] What is the meaning of the U.S. Government's decision to freeze the assets of the movements opposing the Oslo Accord? Does it mean a solution to Israel's security problem or to 'Arafat's political problem? And how would you deal with this?

[Ghawshah] First, let me say that the issue is merely a storm in a tea cup rather than a reality. The Muslims in the United States often donate money to some charitable and humanitarian projects in Palestine and other places. Clinton tried to make this issue a major one in a bid to cover the losses he suffered in the U.S. Congress. Clinton is trying to give something to the Zionist enemy. This process reveals the U.S. intentions toward the Muslims. It also makes the U.S. a foe imposed on the Muslims. We believe this is not in the interest of the U.S. people. The U.S. Administration is implementing this plan under Zionist pressure. 'Arafat's remark on television that he had been waiting for this step for a long time has drawn denunciation. 'Arafat was also denounced when he said: You Americans know very well how the Muslim mujahidin use these funds in the jihad operations. This showed 'Arafat to be a person who speaks in Arabic but in reality he is a Hebrew and is closer to the Jews than to the Muslims and the Arabs.

[Al-'Aydan] The United States did not take any political or legal measure against the Zionist entity on the pretext that this would obstruct the peace process. But we see that the United States is resorting to all the provocative and hostile methods against the Arab side. What is your comment on this policy?

[Ghawshah] No doubt the present U.S. Administration is more hypocritical than the previous administration. It disregards the current building of settlements in the occupied territories. There is now a plot to expand the area of Jerusalem to become the greater Zionist Jerusalem. A Zionist committee approved the building of well over 3,000 housing units. Also, the United States, through the Congress, said it will approve the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. All these moves demonstrate the hypocrisy that is steering the U.S. mentality. It is regrettable that some Arabs and Muslims continue to have confidence in this U.S. Administration, which has proven that it is an obedient servant to the Zionist entity.

[Al-'Aydan] Thank you very much.

Abu-Zayidah Notes Doubts About Oslo Accord

TA2701192895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 27 Jan 95 pp 10, 11

[Interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the Israel desk at the PA's Planning Ministry, by No'omi Levitzky in Gaza "this week"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Levitzky] Why is 'Arafat not taking the necessary steps against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad?

[Abu-Zayidah] That is an enigma that must be explained. The problem is not as easy or as simple as people in Israel think. I am not denying that this is a cardinal issue that will decide the future of the process, but I am not certain that either 'Arafat or the Palestinian Authority [PA] hold the solution. You should know that, over the past few months, the Palestinian police have searched the homes of suspects, seized weapons, and prevented attacks against Israel.

The problem is complex. No ground rules were established between the PA and the opposition. The opposition does not know what it wants from the PA, and the PA does not know how to relate to the opposition. The result is that neither side has a clear role, and there are conflicts of interest. The attack at Bet Lid and its timing have caused the Palestinians serious harm, and not only because of Israel's harsh reaction. It led to the cancellation of the discussions on the release of prisoners and will probably hold up the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank. It also prompted a closure on the territories.

[Levitzky] What are you talking about? People here in Gaza were seen rejoicing after the terrorist attack. This kind of behavior by your people is unacceptable and quite simply denies them the right to consider themselves part of the human race.

[Abu-Zayidah] I did not see any rejoicing. But let us say that some of the people here were not particularly upset. This is because the Palestinian people do not feel that the Israelis are giving them anything in return. Neither territory nor honor. The Palestinians are bitterly disappointed. There has been no improvement in their economic and social well-being.

If you were to ask any Palestinian immediately after the agreement, he would have told you that the war between our peoples is over. Now he realizes that nothing has really changed. Except for the abolishment of the night curfew and your army's withdrawal from the refugee camps, nothing has changed. The Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are asking what kind of peace is this, with 5,000 settlers controlling 25 percent of the land. What kind of logic dictates that 20 families from Netzarim should control a larger slice of territory than all of Jabalyah, with its 80,000 residents. The Palestinian refugees know they are living in the most crowded place on earth, while 20 settler families are ensconced in luxury a few meters away. I cannot understand why Rabin does not remove Netzarim. What is this stupidity?

[Levitzky] I think you have gone too far this time. Even a moderate man like 'Ezer Weizman, who supports reaching an arrangement, has called for a suspension of the process. This should be viewed as a serious warning.

[Abu-Zayidah] Not only 'Ezer Weizman. I, too, sometimes have doubts about the process. The problem begins with Oslo. The fact that Israelis and Palestinians met in such a secret fashion in Oslo gave the impression that just by sitting down together, we had already made the required concessions, and now everything would work out. But this was followed by all the mistakes in the world.

Leaving the settlements in the Gaza Strip was a fatal mistake. One cannot have peace with settlements. They were meant to foil the process. The second mistake was not solving the prisoner issue. The Israelis failed to understand how crucial this was to us. Finally, a serious mistake was made with regard to the interim period. by leaving everything open to conflicting interpretations.

[Levitzky] How, then, can we totally eliminate this hatred?

[Abu-Zayidah] In the past, I thought that Israelis, or at least the majority of them, were thinking straight and did not hate us. I believed that most of your public understood the situation. Apparently, I must have been wrong. Despite the Oslo agreement, most Israelis still think that the Palestinians as a people do not deserve the same rights as them.

The majority of Israelis think that whatever the Palestinians get is a privilege. It reminds me of prison. That is how relations between the guards and prisoners work. If you behave nicely, you will get half of the Gaza Strip. If you behave even better, we will let you have all of the Gaza Strip. What is this? Is it impossible for you to understand that the Palestinian people have a right to their own state, flag, and passport

The Israelis see all of us as construction workers, dishwashers, and street cleaners in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. You consider us an inferior people. We are prepared to reach a compromise with you. Most of the Palestinian people are ready to accept a Palestinian state alongside with Israel. How much more blood must be spilled before Israel accepts such a compromise?

[Levitzky] You Palestinians are shooting yourselves in the foot. Why not learn from Israel's history? Why does 'Arafat not follow Ben-Gurion's example? You were given a one-time opportunity, and you are wasting it. You cannot get everything at once.

[Abu-Zayidah] We are not Israel, and 'Arafat is not Ben-Gurion. You were given a state; we were granted limited autonomy over part of the land. I agree that we had an opportunity to achieve something and that we have occasionally supplied you with excuses to delay the process and to avoid implementing subsequent stages of the agreement.

We also tell Fatah members who have reservations about the process that violence will get us nowhere. We tell them that it only exacerbates hatred between our two peoples. We opted for the way of peace and must stick to it. There is no other choice. We constantly say the same thing to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. We really want to stop the cycle of hatred and bloodshed.

[Levitzky] You say that to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad? That is really a laugh. These are not the kind of people you can just talk to. Bassam Abu-Sharif told [Israel television's Arab affairs correspondent] Ehud Ya'ari that these organizations should be outlawed.

[Abu-Zayidah] Abu-Sharif should stop shooting his mouth off. What law is he talking about? Does he not know that we have no constitution and no laws? There are not even regulations. We have failed to formulate any rules of behavior here. We are having a hard time making the transition from an underground movement to the building of national institutions. Here in Gaza, we still act as though we were in Lebanon.

[Levitzky] You sound very disappointed in 'Arafat. So are we. He does not talk to us, convince us, or take any steps to win the confidence of the Israeli public. What is the matter with him?

[Abu-Zayidah] I am very disappointed by our inability to create the basis for our future state. 'Arafat busies himself with small details, which he should not be handling. He should not be issuing building permits for another house or floor. He should not be holding meetings with all and sundry. He is having a bad influence on the behavior of his ministers. He constantly interferes with their work and the work of the senior bureaucracy.

I agree with you that some of those who came from Tunis do not understand the Israelis. The gap is too wide; they do not understand the dynamics or what the Israelis are feeling. This poses a big problem for me and my friends from Fatah, who operate in the field. We keep on trying to persuade 'Arafat to speak to the Israeli public and build trust between the two peoples. So far, we have been unsuccessful.

[Levitzky] But you, the field operatives, can do something. Where is the Palestinian equivalent of Peace Now? Why did you not demonstrate in the street against the Bet Lid murders? We demonstrated against Sabra and Shatila.

[Abu-Zayidah] The entire Fatah organization is basically Peace Now. Our "Peace Now" is the governing authority. You do not understand what is holding the Palestinians back. The people still feel that you are stepping on their necks and trampling their honor. Although a lot of people told me they were shocked by the Bet Lid murders, the day when we can stage such demonstrations is still a long way off. I wish we could, but this is the result of the harsh reality in which we live.

[Levitzky] In the end, you will bring about the downfall of Rabin, the man who was willing to sit down and negotiate with you. You will get Binyamin Netanyahu instead. What will happen then?

[Abu-Zayidah] I am not so certain that it would really be so bad if Rabin were replaced by Netanyahu. What will Netanyahu do? Will he refuse to meet with 'Arafat? Will he revoke the agreement? Will he reenter the Gaza Strip? Is that how you think Israel will achieve security? When all is said and done, neither Rabin nor Netanyahu have any alternative. Eventually, everyone will realize this. Regrettably, however, there will be much more bloodshed before this happens.

If Rabin falls, it is because he did not know how to explain to the Israeli public that full peace demands concessions. Rabin and the Labor Party cannot go farther than they have come today. This is the most the Israeli public will allow them. When the Likud experiences a few bombings in central Israel, then the Israeli people will ask it what it is doing to guarantee security and why it is not stopping the attacks. What has Israel conceded in this agreement? You make me laugh. So you gave up the Gaza Strip. What a pity. You should have stayed here and eaten shit with us.

[Levitzky] If 'Arafat would take the steps required of a leader, calm down the street, and talk to the Palestinian public about reconciliation, then maybe things would be different.

[Abu-Zayidah] No soothing words will do the trick here. Even if 'Arafat spoke about reconciliation, his words would be meaningless. There are hundreds of Palestinians in prison. True, they are accused of killing Israelis. They have been imprisoned for 10 or 20 years. But 'Arafat dispatched them. They remain in prison today, although they support peace. They have thousands of relatives. Can you not understand how destructive this is?

I recognize the fact that we Palestinians are not implementing any confidence-building measures. I would like us to do more, but you Israelis still behave like conquerors, and it is difficult. Approximately 45 days ago, I visited male and female prisoners at a prison in the central part of the West Bank. Believe me, I left frustrated. I felt so small, a member of the PA, sitting opposite female Palestinian prisoners and talking to them about peace.

Then I went to see the male prisoners. They were my reception committee in the prison. They are in prison, and I come in a suit and tie. How can you talk about reconciliation like this? You ask us to forgive all your soldiers, pilots, and officers, who have so much blood on their hands that it reaches their neck. You ask us to pardon them, while you refuse to forgive Palestinians who fought you and have blood on their hands.

I once had an argument with myself about reconciliation between our two peoples. I do not hate Israelis or Jews, but I knew at the time that we were very far away from peace.

Abu-Rudaynah Views 'Arafat Visits to Jordan, Egypt

JN2701173095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Cairo has said that the meeting held between Presidents Yasir

'Arafat and Husni Mubarak dealt with the recent developments in the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track as well as the Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation agreement.

In addition to Presidents 'Arafat and Mubarak, the meeting was attended by Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, head of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs; and Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian minister of information.

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, commented on President 'Arafat's visits and talks in Jordan and Egypt. He said:

[Begin Abu-Rudaynah recording] As you know, the visit to Jordan was embodied by signing seven agreements. The two sides agreed to continue coordination at the highest levels between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and His Majesty King Husayn. The meetings were positive and constructive, and the bases for a sound relationship were laid, especially since this is the first agreement signed since President Abu-'Ammar returned home.

President Abu-'Ammar also met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo today. The meeting lasted approximately one and a half hours. President Abu-'Ammar briefed President Mubarak on the agreements signed with Jordan, the recent developments in the peace process, and the problems facing this process and the ways to resolve them. They also discussed Palestinian-Egyptian relations and the need to clear the Arab atmosphere, especially since this issue was discussed during the visit to Jordan. [end recording]

'Arafat Terms Jordan Visit 'Successful'

JN2701171395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jan 94

[By 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his return to Gaza at noon today, President Yasir 'Arafat described his talks with King Husayn as successful and positive. President 'Arafat said that the agreements signed with Jordan will give momentum to Palestinian-Jordanian relations in the interest of our Palestinian people. 'Arafat added: These relations with our Jordanian twin are special in all fields.

President 'Arafat left the day before yesterday for Amman where he held a summit with Jordan's King Husayn. President 'Arafat and King Husayn discussed many issues related to bilateral relations, means of cooperation, and the peace process.

President 'Arafat and Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir signed a comprehensive agreement for bilateral cooperation and coordination in many fields, including the political, economic, and media fields, as well as the fields of trade relations and transportation.

Cabinet Approves Jordan Agreement

JN2801173095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Jan 95

[By 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Nation Authority's Council of Ministers held its weekly session under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidency in Gaza today. The cabinet discussed many issues, the most important being the political developments and the results of President 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and his talks with Jordanian King Husayn in Amman and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo. The Council also discussed the issue of settlements and the military cordon imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The ministers also discussed continuing contacts with Arab countries, particularly Egypt and Jordan.

The Council approved the comprehensive Palestinian-Jordanian agreement President 'Arafat had signed with Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Labor Minister Dr. Samir Ghawshah accused the Israeli government of pushing the peace process to a dead end by pursuing settlements and confiscating lands. Dr. Ghawshah added that Rabin's policy greatly harms the peace process. He referred to public opinion polls which show that Rabin loses ground whenever he distances himself from peace. Ghawshah said it is important that Israel abides by the agreements that have been signed and said the peace process must continue.

On security, Ghawshah said that the National Authority [NA] is responsible for security in the areas it controls, criticizing the Israeli inclination to hold the NA responsible whenever the political situation exacerbates.

From his part, Economy Minister Ahmad Quray' said that the military cordon imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is a punishment for those who struggle for peace.

Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adivser and his official spokesman, said he hopes Israel will reconsider the measures it has taken in the wake of the Bet Lid operation. Kanafani said that the Council approved several topics that will help allievate the Palestinian economic situation.

Commenting on Rabin's statements that it is not possible to reach agreement with the Palestinians over a four month period, Kanafani said: I hope that such statements do not become facts as they will further complicate the situation and enhance the atmosphere of despair that engulfs the peace process.

PA's al-Tarifi Criticizes Extended Closure

TA2901170695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] member Jamil al-Tarifi, who heads the Palestinian negotiating team in the civilian coordination talks, says the continuation of the closure is a form of collective punishment. Al-Tarifi was speaking to reporter Mark Weiss who asked him how he reacted to the cabinet decision to extend the closure:

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarifi] My reaction is very negative. And I do not believe by this what they are doing they can solve the problems. You know that we are sorry about what happened at Bet Lid, about the incident there, and all the PA has said the same. But we do not believe that the way they are acting now—it is like a collective punishment against the whole people—is the way to deal with it. They have an agreement with us, we have to go forward otherwise we are giving a prize for the people who are against the peace process itself and against any part taken in this act.

[Weiss] The feeling expressed by Israeli ministers was that an extension of the closure will put pressure on the PA to clamp down on the Islamic fundamentalists. Do you think this will be the case?

[Al-Tarifi] I believe that we are not working as employees under their control. We are doing our best in the security matters, and I believe that while we are sorry for what happened, till now the people are seeing and noticing that the Israeli Government itself did not take care about what they agreed upon with us. [end recording]

'Arafat, UN Envoy Concerned

TA2901075395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has warned Palestinian businessmen against raising prices of basic products following the closure of the territories. 'Arafat's economic adviser, Khalid Salam, said those who ignore the order would be charged in court. Salam said many Palestinians had complained to 'Arafat that some businesses had exploited the closure by raising the prices of basic food products and other essential goods.

After the Palestinian Authority's weekly meeting in Gaza yesterday, 'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the PLO leader was very worried about the effect of the closure on the Palestinians because, as he put it, it was leading to an explosive situation.

The UN envoy to the Middle East, Terje Rod Larsen, says the closure imposed by Israel is harming efforts by donor states to improve the economic condition in Gaza. Larsen was speaking in Tel Aviv after an Histadrut ceremony honoring his mediation efforts at the Oslo talks:

[Begin Larsen recording] I fully understand the Israeli predicament as concerns security, but on the other hand the closures are undermining the donor effort and the social and economic development, particularly in Gaza. So it's a very problematic move seen from the interests of the living conditions for the Palestinians, and in my opinion there is now an acute need of sitting together—the donors, Israeli representatives, and Palestinian representatives—to discuss the implications of these policies. For my part, I believe very strongly that cooperation, not separation, is the only way to go, because the economic implications of a complete separation are devastating. [end recording]

'Arafat Warns Merchants

JN2901085295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has strictly instructed the competent authorities to closely watch the prices of staples in the Gaza Strip after it was observed that some merchants had dishonorably increased the prices of some staples, giving no heed to the people's present situation, especially since the purchasing prices for these commodities from the countries of origin have not at all increased. These illegal and unfair increases occurred when merchants exploited the decline in the flow of goods and food stuffs into the Gaza Strip due to the closure of the strip.

The president ordered the formation of a special committee to work day and night to monitor this situation as of today. Citizens can contact any police station or economy and trade centers to sue those who tamper with prices. These complaints will be immediately referred to the judiciary in order to take the legal measures and punish the tamperers. We appeal to the brother merchants to understand these exceptional circumstances and abide by the prices.

Kanafani Wants DOP Implemention Before Separation

JN2701203095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1815 GMT 27 Jan 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "The Event" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kanafani] The issue of separation proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin is not clear. It is not known whether it is an administrative, security, economic, or political separation. Separation might mean all these things. We, of course, hope we will remain partners in the peace process, as this became clear on 13 September 1993. We also hope we will cooperate to fully implement the Declaration of Principles [DOP] so that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] will extend to all the occupied Palestinian territory, take charge of all administrative affairs, and shoulder its responsibilities throughout the Palestinian territory. We hope this will be achieved through cooperation with the Israelis in this regard.

The Israeli side is free to make the decisions it wants. However, the agreement should be implemented first. Then, each party is free to do whatever it wants once it has fulfilled its commitments vis-a-vis the implementation of the agreement.

[Correspondent] Each party is free to do whatever it wants, however, there is a price to be paid if the separation proposal is applied in the near future. There will be obstacles and repercussions, particularly on the economic level. What are your conditions to agree to such a proposal? What are the guarantees and compensations you will ask for?

[Kanafani] I linked the agreement on what the Israeli side believes is in its favor with the full implementation of the agreement. The Israeli side cannot now evade the implementation of the agreement by calling for separation. This is contrary to the letter and spirit of the agreement. Psychologically speaking, the issue of separation is not clear. What do they mean by separation? Does it mean that they want to build a wall? Do they want to completely cease the movement of people or transportation of goods? The question is: What does separation mean?

Since this issue is not clear yet, I want to say that since we became partners in implementing the peace process in September 1993 our main concern has been to implement the agreement. Otherwise, we cannot force anybody, and nobody can force us as well, to become partners. Therefore, I want to say that each party has a right to act on his own land without harming the interests of the other party, without slowing down the implementation of the agreement, and without causing any negative economic, political, administrative, humanitarian, or social effects on the other party.

[Correspondent] Mr. Marwan Kanafani: A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman in Gaza said Hamas fully supports the idea of separation provided that this results in establishing a Palestinian state which will rid itself of the Jewish settlements. What is your view and assessment of this stand?

[Kanafani] First, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the removal of settlements is a national Palestinian demand. President Yasir 'Arafat and the PNA are the first to believe in and to call for this. There is no argument over this and this is not new. We all want a Palestinian state and we all seek the removal of settlements. This is not a secret and the Palestinian side raises this issue in every meeting with the Israeli side.

Second, I do not support separation. My stand on this issue is reasonable. Let us not repeat things which do not have any meaning now. Let us first see what is meant by separation and how it will affect us, particularly with regard to the issues I mentioned. If the Israeli side wants this separation to take place after the implementation of the agreement, it is up to them. I do not want to discuss this issue now because there are more important things that deal with the daily life of the Palestinian people, such as the closure of Gaza, the suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the [Bet Lid] operation, the extension of the PNA to the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory, the issue of elections, and the issue of development. There are more urgent issues that should be discussed before discussing an idea which is not yet clear. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Increased Violence Expected To Increase in Ramadan

NC2801123595 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Jan 28 (AFP)—One of Algeria's main armed Islamic groups called Saturday [28 January] on its guerrillas to intensify their attacks there during the holy month of Ramadan, which begins on Wednesday.

The appeal by the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), considered the armed branch of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), indicated Algiers was likely to be a particular target.

In the latest issue of its underground newsletter El-Feth El-Moubine, a copy of which was received by AFP Saturday, the AIS called on all "mujahedeen" to "persevere ... in the combat against apostates and their henchmen" during Ramadan, the Moslem month of fasting.

Ramadan is "the month of repentance and conquest in the service of God's religion," the newsletter said.

For the past three years, the month has marked a resurgence in Islamic fundamentalist violence.

Events during "bloody Ramadan" have included mass prison break-outs, and attacks carried out in broad daylight in major cities.

In an apparent sign the attacks would particularly target Algiers, the text said: "the concentration of forces around the capital will not change anything."

Algerian authorities were in "fear and agony," expecting "what they're going to get from the mujaheddin," the newsletter said, adding, "The battle will be great....fear nothing and know that God will give you victory."

More than 20,000 people have been killed since Islamic fundamentalists launched their war against Algeria's military-backed government following the cancellation in early 1992 of national elections which the FIS was poised to win.

The AIS last week rejected a proposal for talks on the political crisis, made by the FIS and other main opposition parties to the government.

President Liamine Zeroual has given "legal parties"—which excludes the banned FIS—15 days to respond to a memorandum setting conditions for presidential elections tentatively scheduled for July.

Meanwhile in Algiers, the security services said an armed group killed four relatives of a veteran of the Algerian independence war in El Karimia, near the western town of Chelif.

Three young people aged between 13 and 22 and a woman of 24, all members of Salah Zoubar's family, were kidnapped from their home and killed late Tuesday, the security services said without giving details.

"Armed groups," official shorthand for Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas, have assassinated several veterans in the past, some along with members of their families.

A group of non-political organizations and the Association of Terrorism Victims' Families meanwhile urged residents of the capital to march Sunday against terrorism and in support of the president's attempts to solve the crisis.

Scores of such demonstrations, described in the media as "spontaneous", have occurred across the country to support Zeroual and denounce the opposition meeting last week in Rome.

Foreign Minister Rejects Foreign Intervention

LD2801170195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri, the minister of foreign affairs, has held a news conference in Rome; it was attended by the foreign press. In the news conference, the minister pointed out the nature of the political crisis facing Algeria. He also talked about preparations under way to hold presidential elections. The minister of foreign affairs also dwelled upon the two Sant' Agidio meetings of the [Algerian] opposition in Rome. Fatiha Djeidar reports:

[Djeidar] There were many questions, but there was only one answer: Algerian problems must be resolved inside Algeria between Algerians. This was the main idea which was conveyed with diplomacy at this news conference.

The Algerian foreign minister talked, in his answers to journalists' questions, about the presidential elections and the government's commitment to implementing the program of the transitional period for the presidential elections to be held before the end of 1995. The government's current policies are based upon the idea of complete rupture with past ideologies and policies. Algeria is being transferred from one-party state to a multi-party state. Electoral law is being drawn up; political parties and independent politicians can fight the elections once they meet conditions for eligibility.

Algerian institutions are still working, Dembri asserted. The platform for national consensus, which stemmed from the Conference of National Concord, is the point of reference of the government's program, he added.

Dembri stated, however, that Algeria is going through a transitional period. The Algerian Government is committed to the idea of peaceful alteration of power. And here the foreign minister discussed the Sant'Egidio meetings. He reiterated the government's rejection of the Rome Declaration and the Sant' Agidio meetings. Dialogue has been going on inside Algeria since January 1994, he added. It started at the Conference for National

Consensus and is going on inside the Transitional National Council which includes 180 members drawn from 50 political and social groups.

Dembri pointed out, at the end of his news conference, that Algeria does not accept any aid from anybody, as some people have claimed. He asserted the need to correct a number of misconceptions about the country: They should be called loans with interests between countries. Algeria is still standing strong, he added.

Cherif Discusses Rome Proposal, U.S. Position

NC2901203895 London MBC Television in Arabic 1720 GMT 29 Jan 95

[Interview with Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif by unidentified correspondent "during the Mediterranean security conference in Tunis" on 21-22 January; from the "Talk of the Hour" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] What exactly is the position of the Algerian Government on the Rome agreement between the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and seven other Algerian opposition parties and organizations? We note that the agreement offers a plan for peace and for ending the continuing so-called civil war in Algeria.

[Meziane] This plan is meaningless. The Algerian Government long ago began contacts with all parties through the dialogue that ended last year. All the points mentioned in the Rome platform were previously proposed by the Algerian Government and the presidency, with the initial participation of representatives of the dissolved parties, after they had stressed to us that they condemn violence. But they later retracted, and this caused the dialogue to stop.

They are talking about an end to what they call violence. But who will stop violence? Violence is not an act of or a result of the practices and interventions of the Algerian state. It is the duty of the state to protect its citizens and property. It is the terrorists who can stop the violence. If they want to stop violence, they can do so. What remains is easy.

All the proposals in this platform were proposed by us earlier. I do not understand. Perhaps this is a conspiracy by some tendentious and rancorous parties. When we announced that presidential elections will be held at the end of this year, they perhaps became worried and therefore wanted to influence our preparations for the elections. Perhaps the decision on presidential elections worried them and upset their program.

[Correspondent] If the points contained in the Rome agreement were the same as those proposed by the Algerian Government, why do you not take the chance and start a dialogue?

[Meziane] The dialogue is open as far as we are concerned. They are the ones who are evading a dialogue. What sense does it make for party officials to meet in Rome and hold discussions away from Algeria while they are fully free to hold discussions in their own country? They do not talk with us, as the state, but talk with others who have nothing to do with Algerian affairs. There is an authority, a state in Algeria. I do not understand this interference by those who organized and prepared this meeting.

[Correspondent] But the United States called on the Algerian Government to recognize or to move toward recognizing the agreement, or to extend a hand...

[Meziane, interrupting] We initiated a dialogue last year, and all the proposals contained in the Rome understanding were previously offered by us. Perhaps people hear something different from what we hear, or make different readings and interpretations. But our reading is right. We said it is necessary to respect the Constitution, to guard people's sovereignty, to stand up to terrorists and violence, to respect the alternation of power, and to respect individual and collective freedoms. What more can we do?

[Correspondent] Some say the Algerian Government is isolated now because the clear support for the Rome agreement by the United States and recently by France may change many facts.

[Meziane] We in Algeria have a clear position, and we have an exact program. We are heading toward presidential elections. You heard the statement of the French interior minister a short while ago. There is no French interference in Algerian affairs. If some country or another has a different theory regarding what is happening in Algeria and the position of the Algerian government, then it is their business. But we are sure of the soundness of our plan. There are mammoth popular marches, with hundreds of thousands of people taking to the streets daily to support this program and the position of the president, who announced that there will be presidential elections at the end of the year. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Who will take part in the presidential elections?

[Meziane] All the Algerian people, and all those who are ambitious or willing to run in the elections.

[Correspondent] Do you not fear that the opposition will boycott the elections?

[Meziane] The opposition is already boycotting them.

[Correspondent] But if the opposition continues to oppose the elections, will you still have them?

[Meziane] There are more than 63 parties in Algeria. The parties that attended the Rome meeting do not have a significant following. They actually gathered around that dissolved party to gain some of its votes when it disappears completely. This is the purpose of their getting closer to that party. But there are more than 63 parties that, I think, will contest the elections; there are already signs of this. [passage omitted]

Marchers Condemn Terrorism, Reject Rome Meeting

LD2901124795 Algiers Radio Algiers in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A popular march is starting around now in the capital Algiers from 1 May Square to Martyrs Square, in response to a call by the executive commission of the nonpolitical organizations.

The aim of the march, organizers say, is to condemn terrorism and reject the Sant'Egidio meeting, which is considered a blatant interference in the internal affairs of the Algerian people.

Transitional National Council Member Assassinated

LD2801200795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement by the security services announced that their forces killed 13 criminals during the past two days.

The same sources pointed out that their forces have killed a criminal in Bou Rouba in El-Harrach, and a dangerous criminal in Rais Hamidou, west of the capital, the search for whom had been underway for a while.

The security services have also killed a criminal in Hussein Dey, and criminals in Medea, Setif, Ain Defla, Constantine, Boumerdes, and Tizi Ouzou.

The same sources pointed out that during this operation the security services recovered a quantity of weapons and ammunition. [passage omitted]

The security services also announced the death today of Moussa Moghni, member of the Transitional National Council and leader of the Rally for National Unity, after armed criminals attacked him.

On this painful occasion, the Head of State Liamine Zeroual offered his sincere condolences to the family of the deceased, the chairman of the Transitional National Council, and members of the political formation headed by the deceased.

The chairman and members of the Transitional National Council received with extreme grief and sorrow the news of the cowardly assassination of Moussa Moghni, deputy chairman of the Transitional National Council's financial and budget committee and leader of the Rally for National Unity.

On this painful occasion, the chairman and members of the Transitional National Council strongly condemned this ugly crime which has affected once again one of the sons of this people which would never cease to reject violence and terrorism. [passage omitted]

Border Demarcation Committee Established With Libya

LD2601163195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abderrahmane] Meziane Cherif, minister of interior and local authorities, and his Libyan counterpart affirmed that the setting up of a joint committee in charge of border demarcation reflects the will of the two countries to strengthen [bilateral] cooperation in all fields.

Meziane Cherif said, in a speech delivered in Tripoli yesterday evening during the announcement of the setting up of this committee, that the demarcation of the border between Algeria and Libya will be a bridge to improve unity between the Algerian and Libyan peoples, as well as a guarantee that will revive development projects along the border areas aimed at benefitting the peoples of the two countries. [He said] it is also a historic achievement arising from the firm will and conviction which the two countries achieved thanks to the wise policies of their leaders, President Liamine Zeroual and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted]

World Bank Loan Secured To Strengthen Production

LD2801142595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a bid to consolidate the process of economic revival in Algeria, our country has secured a $150 million loan from the World Bank.

The agreement was signed yesterday by Mouloud Belkadi, the Algerian charge d affairs in Washington, and Daniel Richie, director of the Maghreban Department at the World Bank.

The loan, which was agreed by the World Bank's board of directors on 13 January 1995, will be used to boost the economy through the purchase of equipment and raw materials required for our country's means of production.

This loan is the second of its kind secured by Algeria this month, and will be repaid in 17 years.

The first loan was used to rebuild the Mascara region following last year's earthquake; it was worth $151 million.

Egypt

President Mubarak To Visit U.S. 'Shortly'

NC2901215495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that

President Husni Mubarak will visit the United States shortly. He said that President Mubarak announced this during his meeting with National Democratic Party financial and economic committee members this evening. He stressed that there are no problems with the U.S. Administration. He noted that President Mubarak described the relationship between Egypt and the United States as characterized by the mutual respect and frankness that link friendly countries.

Mubarak on Peace, Libya, Sudan, Terrorism

NC3001070095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that at his meeting with the National Democratic Party [NDP] financial and economic committee members this evening, President Mubarak broached a number of political and economic issues. He said that President Mubarak explained the peace process at the current stage and Egypt's stance on the various peace tracks. He noted the positive points that have been achieved on the Palestinian track through the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with the aim of advancing the peace process and broadening the scope of the Palestinian Authority. He noted that the recent incidents in the occupied territories have had a negative impact that led to halting implementation of the steps on which agreement was reached.

Al-Sharif said that during the meeting President Mubarak noted that certain parties stir up crises every time the Palestinians and Israelis come close to making progress in their talks. Referring to the current contacts between Israel and Syria, President Mubarak noted that there are still difficult points and obstacles that preclude the achievement of progress on the Syrian track.

President Mubarak said that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Cairo in the next few days for consultations and to exchange views on the obstacles impeding the peace process on the various tracks.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak stressed Egypt's firm stance on the cause for peace as represented in efforts and assistance so that all parties may achieve a fair and comprehensive peace in the region. President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt will not budge from these principles regardless of any attempts or pressure to change its stance. He asserted that Egypt cannot be intimidated or pressured into changing its course for peace. He stressed that Egypt does not deal with reactions resulting from statements made for local consumption. He noted that all aspects of Egypt's position on Libya are clear.

Al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak spoke of relations between Egypt and the United States. President Mubarak pointed out that there are no problems in the relations between the two countries. He stressed that Egypt has its own policy, will, and independent decisionmaking, preserving its national dignity and Arab policy. President Mubarak noted that in his previous visits to the United States his primary concern was international, regional, and Arab problems, as well as bilateral relations. He said that Egypt is aware of its role and will safeguard its national and Arab responsibilities. He stressed Egypt's independent decisionmaking and stressed that Egypt does not tolerate any pressure whatsoever and that Egypt's policy is committed to its national line.

Discussing Arab relations, President Mubarak noted the results of the Alexandria summit. He noted that the summit was held as a result of the desire of the three countries to hold this meeting to serve Arab interests. He said that the summit was not a reaction as certain people said. Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak also touched on the talks at the Alexandria summit and stressed that they were intended to clear the air in Arab relations and to achieve Arab solidarity. President Mubarak expressed his regret that Israel assailed the Alexandria summit even before it convened. He noted the economic and political results of the summit. President Mubarak stressed that the results were declared in a clear statement and that there is nothing to fear.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak broached the issue of inter-Arab relations and stressed the necessity of exerting efforts to achieve Arab solidarity. He said that the Arabs should rise to the level of events so that we may agree on confronting the numerous challenges facing us. He stressed that the Arab nation is one entity. Referring to the borders crisis between Saudi Arabia and Yemen he expressed his wish that it will end, stressing that the leadership in both fraternal countries has the desire and preparedness for a solution. He stressed that Egypt encourages any Arab gathering such as the Gulf Cooperation Council or the Arab Maghreb Union because every Arab grouping will strengthen the Arab nation.

Al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak spoke of terrorism. He pointed out that the Egyptian people have the capability and understanding and that they have confronted and unmasked terrorism. President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt has civilization and history and that it established the first administration on its land on the banks of the Nile. He said that Egypt rejects erroneous notions that are remote from Islam, stressing that all segments of the people and their national establishments will inevitably defeat the acts of violence.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak broached the subject of relations with the Libyan Jamahiriyah and noted that relations between the two countries are based on dialogue, frankness, clarity, and cooperation in all fields, as Libya is a fraternal, Arab, and neighbor country.

On relations with Sudan, President Mubarak noted the relations linking the two peoples irrespective of the excesses of the rulers, stressing that Egypt will never fight Sudan. He expressed his surprise at rumors that Egypt wants to seize Port Sudan. He stressed that Egypt has never coveted and will never covet Sudanese territory.

President Mubarak explained his latest visit to Jordan and his meeting with King Husayn in al-'Aqabah saying it was designed to bring Arab views closer and boost bilateral relations.

On the bestial air raids on south Lebanon, President Mubarak said that boosting the peace process and establishing a comprehensive peace will put an end to acts of aggression against south Lebanon.

Al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak listened to the dialogue and questions posed by the economists and businessmen on plans and policies that will bring about an economic takeoff. The questions also dealt with the foreign aid that Egypt receives, projects to establish paper plants, the public business sector, banking performance, the money market, tax exemptions on new projects, and the obstacles facing the establishment of tourist projects.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak touched on the economic policy, noting that Egypt pursued an economic reform policy that is consistent with the nature of the Egyptian society and its political and economic circumstances and its capabilities. He noted that the economic policy stemmed from a sound study of Egyptian reality that is in line with the realities of the Egyptian economy and the need for gradual changes to achieve this reform. He said that Egypt encountered obstacles and rejected numerous reform policies that the international economic establishments called for imposing on Egypt. He said that the positive results that the Egyptian economy has achieved spared it the dangers encountered by other countries which followed reform programs not based on sound and realistic foundations.

President Mubarak called on the national press establishments to participate in paper-making projects through the two projects approved recently by the Higher Investment Authority. He also called for facilitating the procedures to obtain approval of the establishment of tourist projects from local authorities, provided that these projects are in line with the tourist development plan for these areas. He stressed that the projects amounting to 50 million pounds that are exempted from approval by the Higher Investment Authority are designed to develop Upper Egypt provided that these projects are built in the new cities, desert areas, and the industrial zones in the governorates.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak pointed out that the goal of economic reforms and expanding investment is to create new job opportunities and increasing production. President Mubarak said that the meeting with experts and specialists in the field of industry next week will deal with a number of issues that were discussed during today's meeting, particularly regarding the effects of imposing taxes on equipment and the land price in the new cities and in Upper Egypt.

Regarding the plan to increase the role of banks in backing the industrial projects, President Mubarak stressed the importance of striking a balance between exemptions and facilities and basic services, such as education and medical care, which are the right of the people.

President Mubarak noted that economic policies must be integrated, precise, and comprehensive so that they can survive. Al-Sharif noted that the businessmen hailed President Mubarak's recent decisions regarding the opening of investment opportunities without obtaining approval for projects costing up to 50 million pounds, allocating free land to projects in Upper Egypt, and the government readiness to undertake the cost of basic infrastructure projects. President Mubarak reviewed the achievements attained in the Egyptian economy. He noted the agreement reached between the industries union and the Finance Ministry on facilities for exports. President Mubarak called on the government to participate with the private business sector in discussing all laws and legislation relating to investment, export, and the establishment of companies.

Musa Discusses Meeting With Peres in Davos

NC3001070495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in Davos, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] You met Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the sidelines of the Davos meeting. Can you tell us what went on during that meeting?

[Musa] We followed up on the peace process and the difficulties it is encountering and we discussed some problems and what could be done about them. We also discussed some of the problems between us, such as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. All this was raised.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Did you discuss negotiations along the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Musa] Everything was said and noted. There was a Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th. They discussed the Palestinian situation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Should we expect progress along the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks in the coming days?

[Musa] I do not think so.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you.

AL-AHRAM: Israel To Pay High Price for Settlement Policy

NC2801120695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper says the Israeli ministerial committee's decisions to increase housing units in Jewish settlements in Jerusalem unequivocally confirm Israel's continued escalatory measures against the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian people under occupation.

In its editorial today, the paper adds that the Israeli Government has not learned a lesson from the frequent painful reactions by the legitimate Palestinian national resistance personnel in their bid to persuade or coerce the Israeli Government to halt the settlement policy and implement the Declaration of Principles.

AL-AHRAM emphasizes that Israel's decisions, especially on the expansion of settlements, contravene the spirit of peace in which Israel alleges it is working to promote in the Middle East. The paper notes that Israel will pay a high price for these policies.

Opposition Paper Rejects Israel's Stance on NPT

NC2901071295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-WAFD has urged the international community and the superpowers in particular to put pressure on Israel to make it sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

In its editorial today, the paper, which is the organ of the opposition new Wafd party, said that Israel's possession of nuclear weapons despite the presence of a peace treaty is rejected. The paper rejected any pressure from any country with the aim of making Egypt sign the treaty. AL-WAFD also rejected the report about Israel's promise to sign the treaty in the future.

The newspaper added: While we do not possess any of these destructive weapons, it is our right to say that it is incumbent upon the state that owns this kind of weapon to sign the treaty before the state that does not. The paper affirmed that the people have the final say because this issue represents a matter of life and death.

Iraqi Trade Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC2901174195 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 29 (AFP)—An Iraqi trade delegation arrived in Cairo on Sunday [29 January] for talks on supplying food and medicines to Baghdad on the first such visit since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Iraqi diplomats said.

The invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait which ended with the January-February 1991 Gulf War drove a deep rift between Arab countries over what stance to adopt.

Iraq was particularly angered by Egypt's participation in the U.S.-led coalition which routed troops from Kuwait.

"The delegation made up of representatives from the Iraqi public and private sectors will have talks with Egyptian leaders on concluding sales of Egyptian food and pharmaceutical products," the source said.

An Egyptian trade delegation travelled to Baghdad in the summer to "study" Iraq's requirements.

Food and medicines are excluded from the UN embargo imposed on Iraq since August 1990.

Egypt has increasingly voiced its concern at the suffering of the Iraqi people because of the crippling embargo, and urged Baghdad to comply with all the UN Security Council resolutions conditional for a lifting of the sanctions.

Doctors Protest Arrests of Colleagues

NC2701200295 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 27 (AFP)—Around 2,000 members of the Egyptian doctors' union held a rally at their Cairo headquarters Friday [27 January] to demand the immediate release of seven colleagues arrested during a crackdown on the fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood.

'Isam al-Aryan, a leader of the union, and Ibrahim al-Za'farani, head of the union's Alexandria branch, were among the 27 members of the Moslem Brotherhood arrested last weekend.

The doctors urged President Husni Mubarak to lift emergency laws imposed in 1981 and create a climate of "freedom and democracy."

They also called on the government to "guarantee elections free of fraud."

Egypt's interior ministry has charged that the Brotherhood, which is not officially recognised but tolerated because of its official stand against violence, was funding Islamic militants.

The Brotherhood said the arrests were aimed at spoiling its chances in parliamentary elections later this year.

Rights Group Urges Legal Protection for Press

NC2801214695 Paris AFP in English 2125 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 28 (AFP)—The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation on Saturday [28 January] pressed for changes to the law to guarantee freedom of speech and information.

The group called for "reviewing all legislation restricting freedom of opinion and speech, notably vaguely-worded laws which could be interpreted in a way which could penalise people for their opinions."

In a statement issued after a conference in Cairo, the group also pressed the government not to try journalists before military courts for offences of opinion, to guarantee journalists' right to travel and to protect them from arbitrary arrest or being placed under surveillance.

Participants at the conference called for a review of the 1992 law on terrorism, "to put an end to the vague definitions of terrorism allowing this law to be used in opinion trials."

The group's comments came after Moslem fundamentalist journalist 'Adil Husayn was held in custody for 25 days before being freed in January 18.

Several journalists of the fundamentalist newspaper AL-SHA'B, including its editor-in-chief, Majdi Husayn, last year were summoned by the state security court and charged with "damaging the peace of society and state security."

One of them, 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn, was sentenced in May 1994 to six months in prison after publishing an article on "irregularities" in weapons sales from the United States to Egypt

He only served half the sentence as President Husni Mubarak accepted his appeal for pardon.

Parliament Approves Bill on Treasury Bonds

NC2801201095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During a meeting this evening under the chairmanship of Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur, the People's Assembly finally approved a bill allowing the finance minister to issue Egyptian treasury bonds.

The bill authorizes the finance minister to issue Egyptian- currency nominal bonds guaranteed by the Public Treasury at the value of 15 billion Egyptian pounds. The bonds will be offered for public shareholding and will be registered in the stock exchange.

The bill exempts the bond dividends from all present and future taxes and fees, except the inheritance tax.

The bonds will be registered in the Egyptian stock market three months after the closing date of subscription for every batch of bonds.

Libya

West Uses Lockerbie To 'Settle Old Scores'

LD2801233595 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lockerbie defined: a long accusation stick held by the Western intelligence services as a sword over the heads of some states to settle old scores. This has been confirmed by the method this issue is being handled by the West; this has clearly shown how the West has been manipulating the issue. It has been utlizing it at its will and towards anyone it plans to threaten.

Quite simply, the matter is deliberate and intended. The objective behind it is to use charges in this issue as a vehicle to realize American objectives in particular, and Western objectives in general, particularly since America is pursuing policies which are the product of a sick mentality; medical reports have confirmed that it does not have the constituents for (?planning) the policy of a state that possesses an arsenal of mass-destruction weapons.

America is tied to the hatred of Reagan, who was president of the United States and is now suffering from the Alzheimer's disease which leads to a paralyzed mind, oblivion, stupidity, illusions and megalomania, and consequently to making unsound decisions.

Under these harebrained policies, the haphazard Western immoral accusations showed a clearly deliberate attempt to hurl accusations at this or that state. This has made the watchful world aware the West's designs and objectives behind its haphazard accusations.

Although the misinformation campaign has been aimed intensively at the Great Jamahiriyah recently, accusations were made against other states at first. Once we link up some of the objectives achieved by America and the West in general, particularly during the Kuwait crisis, we become aware of the reasons for making accusations against some states and later ignoring them.

Although the Great Jamahiriyah, and the whole world with it, are convinced of the soundness of its stance and that it has nothing to do with Lockerbie, the renewal of accusations against another state confirms that the West is insolently using this issue to achieve another objective in the region.

There is no doubt, as the TEHRAN TIMES puts it, that the West and the Zionists will be sure that international bodies will adopt measures against Iran. The newspaper's statement came in the context of its denial of British media reports alleging that the former Iranian interior minister had financed the operation of blowing the Pan Am plane. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Filali Discusses EU Mediterranean Policy

BR2701124795 Paris LE FIGARO (LE FIGARO-ECONOMIE Supplement) in French 26 Jan 95 p13

[Interview with Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali by Marie-France Calle; place and date not given: "Abdellatif Filali: 'Europe Must Help Maghreb To Prevent Illegal Immigration'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Calle] When taking over the European presidency French officials said they intended to reactivate Europe's Mediterranean policy. What do you expect from this policy, and what is your country's position today vis-a-vis Europe?

[Filali] I read with great interest the statements by Mr. Lamassoure [minister delegate for European affairs] and Mr. Juppe [foreign minister] on the role France intends to play in the Mediterranean problem and on the plans for a conference on the Mediterranean to be held in Lisbon under the Spanish presidency.

The Mediterranean problem is currently in the news, but there are a number of ambiguous points: It is not known if it is being viewed in terms of security or development. As far as we are concerned, we have always been against the Community's so-called renovated Mediterranean policy. We explained this at length to Jacques Delors in the past, as well as to various ministers.

There are two main reasons for this. On the one hand, following the membership of Spain and Portugal, the Community made the mistake of defining a comprehensive Mediterranean policy. It gave a general mandate to the Commission and sketched out a single cooperation scheme with the entire Mediterranean area, failing to take the specific features of each country into account. We felt that Morocco had closer relations with Europe than do other countries in the region. Our trade with the Community was between 55 and 60 percent. Moreover, with the membership of Spain and Portugal, we have become Europe's main partner in fisheries, because the largest fisheries agreement signed by Brussels was signed with Morocco.

The second reason is that the Mediterranean problem cannot be put on an equal footing. It is a development problem, and we have to face up to it. If certain countries in the region are experiencing serious crises, then this is the underlying problem—because fundamentalism and Islamism have their roots in underdevelopment, unemployment, and poverty.

Morocco Is Open to Everyone

Morocco feels that when there is talk of a partnership, account must also be taken of this situation. Europe must contribute an especially large amount of aid. This is in its interest since at stake is the prevention of illegal immigration, something which nobody will have the resources to control. Europe's interest therefore is to keep these people in place by enabling the countries concerned to create jobs. We could develop joint ventures or encourage the European private sector to make investments there. A country like Morocco is open to everyone. Long before the European Council meeting in Essen we said that a new look needed to be taken at the Mediterranean problem.

[Calle] At what point did you get the feeling that a "new look" needed to be taken at Europe's Mediterranean policy.

[Filali] After the fall of the Berlin Wall everyone said—in the Commission and in the member states—that Europe should take an interest in the European countries that had just been liberated from the yoke of communism, but this did not mean it was going to abandon the southern area. We have seen that that was just talk. Just look at the European Union's statistics: It currently spends ECU8 per inhabitant in Eastern Europe, compared to ECU2.5 in the Southern area, whereas the talk had been about maintaining a certain balance.

[Calle] Are you concerned about the entry of three new countries—by definition not oriented toward the Mediterranean—into the European Union on 1 January 1995?

[Filali] No, because as amazing as it may seem, countries like Sweden and Finland have already let us know that they are very interested in the situation in the Southern Mediterranean—even though they do not have any strategic interests in our region.

[Calle] What are you expecting from the French presidency? Perhaps an opportunity to move beyond the talk and achieve more intense economic cooperation?

[Filali] I hope so because before the Essen summit the Community proposed that Community aid to the southern part of the Mediterranean should be increased to ECU5 billion. I regret the fact that no decision was made on this matter at the summit, whereas aid to Eastern Europe was ratified. I hope that the French presidency will express its determination to clear up this problem. I repeat, it is in everyone's interest.

In addition we must initiate the negotiation of a new agreement with the Union. This poses an enormous amount of problems. We are still waiting for a response to the memorandum that we submitted to the Commission concerning our position on this new agreement. Here too, I hope that the French presidency will give impetus to this so that we can make progress. When one talks about partnership, there must be real substance. The current cooperation agreement is almost 20 years old. In the meantime Morocco and the European Union have changed. Our country has experienced economic development in the agricultural and industrial sectors. There is also another very important matter to deal with: fisheries. We must reach an agreement by April. We do not understand why France, England, and Ireland are banning Spanish and Portuguese fleets from fishing in their waters when those two countries are members of the European Union. Why is this the case if Europe is a vast market?

[Calle] What would be the most advantageous agreement from Morocco's point of view?

[Filali] Morocco is a developing country. It has certain strengths and certain weaknesses. It must take advantage of its potential in order to accelerate development, reduce unemployment, and boost exports, because there too we have imbalance. As for fisheries, attitudes have to change. Morocco is rich in fish, and it is natural that it should try to take advantage of this in order to develop. Europe must help Morocco develop the fisheries sector and the allied agri-foods sector—the philosophy being that in so doing Europe will be helping Morocco to develop.

[Calle] The recent tomato crisis highlighted the problem of the post-GATT era for Morocco. How far will you go to resolve it?

[Filali] I think there were some misunderstandings by the Commission and by us. The agreement currently linking Morocco to the European Union talks about acquired rights. In other words, when there is any change we must keep our rights. We all signed the GATT agreement, and we had to adapt the maintenance of these rights. For the European Union it was a matter of confirming Morocco's rights. The negotiation of the new agreement is another problem, and the negotiation has not yet begun. I am especially hopeful that we will find a working arrangement with Spain, our neighbors in the North who are our partners and our competitors in agriculture. I do not think it is in Spain's interests to penalize Morocco, which is just 10 km from its borders. We have to see more than just the mercantile side of things in our relations with our neighbors.

Maintenance of Financial Balance

[Calle] Domestically your government's priorities have leaned toward privatization, the implementation of measures likely to encourage investment, and the development of a stock exchange. What is Morocco's ambition today?

[Filali] To maintain financial balance. For 10 years Morocco made many sacrifices in order to fall in line with IMF requirements—perhaps too many. The IMF and the World Bank made mistakes. They were not aware of the social aspect of the situation. However, it is not possible to maintain high deficits without harming the country's economic and social stability. The second ambition is to have the state withdraw completely from managing the economy. This does not mean that [economic] liberalism is the answer to everything, but since its independence the Moroccan state has been forced to do many things. There were not enough executives, savings were too low, and so on. This is no longer the case today and Moroccan private enterprise must be able to take responsibility for the country's economy. For example it is up to businesses to find a solution to unemployment, even if they do so with state aid.

We have already privatized virtually all the hotels that used to belong to the state. We are currently privatizing the Moroccan Foreign Trade Bank, the country's second largest bank. This will be followed by the Popular Bank—Morocco's largest bank—and others. The privatization program stretches to 1996. Large chunks of the economy will be transferred to the private sector, both Moroccan and foreign. Foreign investors are interested in Morocco's political stability and in the steps we are currently taking to encourage foreign investment: There is a bill on a Labor Code and company law. Commercial courts will be set up.

[Calle] In social terms can you ask the people to make extra efforts after 10 years of a very tough structural adjustment plan? Does that not risk leading to a high-risk situation, especially with the neighboring example of Algeria?

[Filali] I do not think we can ask the people to make more of an effort. On the contrary, we must find solutions to certain urgent problems. Today there is a dialogue between the government and the trade unions. This dialogue is based on a certain level of confidence. The government is aware that an effort has to be made for the most disadvantaged groups, but the trade unions are aware that they cannot ask for the impossible, given the country's situation. This dialogue between the government and trade unions must be expanded, but it must also be expanded between the trade unions and the employers.

I do not believe we will be contaminated by Algeria. Morocco does not have the same identity problems as Algeria. Moreover, in Morocco we have not let just any old economic model be imposed on us. In the 1960's we had disputes with the World Bank because of this. It did not understand why we were determined to give such an important role for agriculture, but it was wrong because at that time more than 60 percent of the population lived off of agriculture. There was no question of making industry for industry's sake. We therefore stuck by our agricultural plans so that we would not abandon this 60 percent of the population, while at the same time launching major industrial projects such as phosphates, steelmaking, and so on.

Sentences Announced for Accused in Armed Attacks

LD2801223595 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Appeal Court in Fez has, in the early hours of this morning, passed its sentence in the case of the 18 people implicated in the armed attacks witnessed last summer by some Moroccan cities.

[Unidentified correspondent] The sentences of the Court of Appeal in Fez in the case of the armed attacks and seized weapons were as follows:

Redouane Hamadi, Marrakech group, death sentence;
Stephane Ait Idir, Marrakech group, death sentence;
Hamel Merzoug, Casablanca group, death sentence;
Kamal Benakcha, Fez group, life imprisonment;
(Abdesalam Gueruaz), Fez group, life imprisonment;
(Abderrehmane Boudjedli), Fez group, life imprisonment.

As for the remaining 12 accused, sentences were passed on them ranging between 10 years effective prison sentences and six months suspended prison sentences.

Sudan

Government Cuts Navigation Links With Egypt

EA2901152595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif, the minister of transport, said he has received a letter from his Egyptian counterpart asking for the dissolution of the Nile Valley Authority for river navigation, a joint authority supported equally by the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of Egypt.

The minister told the press a short while ago that the suspension of navigation between the two countries was due to Egyptian insistence on placing heavily armed forces on board the steamers during routine voyages, a matter that is regarded as a violation of laws, norms, and sovereignty.

The minister added that, when the Egyptian side refused to be persuaded to withdraw forces from the steamers, Sudan saw no alternative but to stop the voyages. The minister of transport expressed his regret at a demand by the Egyptian minister at a time when there was talk about clearing the Arab atmosphere and in the light of statements made by the foreign ministers of both countries which instilled optimism that the summer clouds hanging over the two countries' relations would disappear. He pointed out that the demand went against the improvement of relations between the two fraternal countries. It may yet be the cause for dissolving all the joint projects between the two countries, a matter not desired by Sudan. He stressed that there was now an opportunity to create a healthier atmosphere between the two countries.

Opposition Call For Constitution Conference

MM3001125595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jan 95 pp1, 4

[Report by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im: "Sudan: Opposition Leaders Call for Constitutional Conference Under International Supervision"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—In a memorandum to the leaders of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and Drought [IGADD] states' leaders mediating in the conflict in the south, the main Sudanese opposition forces asked them to overlook the formula of bilateral negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the rebels and replace it with "a political constitutional conference of all Sudanese politial forces under international supervision to establish peace and democracy...and hold general elections in the country within a specified period."

A secret document signed by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] leader; Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]; Dr. 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, Ummah Party secretary general; and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, commander of the "Sudanese Alliance Forces"; said that these forces agreed to accept the right of self-determination for southern Sudan after a transitional period "keeping Sudan's unity as the first option" under "a decentralized system to be agreed upon at the forthcoming enlarged meeting of the Sudanese opposition forces, as a fundamental right of all Sudanese regions on the basis of the federal or confederal options."

The document, of which AL-HAYAH obtained a copy yesterday, was signed on 27 December 1994. [passage omitted]

The document emphasized that "real peace in the country should not be confined to the problem of the south." It said that the conferees discussed "a joint political concept of a program for the future, the IGADD states' declaration of principles initiative, a strategy and implementation mechanism for work of the opposition, and the forthcoming enlarged meeting of the opposition forces."

One of the most important provisions of the agreement [as published] was that "Sudan's unity will remain the first option" in accordance with certain principles including the recognition of plurality, a guarantee of equal rights, and a commitment to decentralized rule for all Sudanese regions on the basis of the federal or confederal options, the inclusion of international charters on human rights in the permanent constitution, and nonexploitation of religion in politics.

The agreement stressed that "if these principles are violated or abandoned, then the aggrieved parties would have the right of self-determination, with the exclusion of any option, through a referendum" that would be binding. The conferees gave the south the right of self-determination after a transitional period to be agreed upon at the enlarged conference of the opposition, "with a commitment to joint efforts to build bridges of trust so that the self-determination option would consolidate the unity of the new united Sudan"

The agreement stipulated that, during the transitional period, Sudan would be ruled as a united state and "the degree of decentralization and the length of the transitional period would be determined at the meeting of the opposition." [passage omitted]

Yemen, Saudi Arabia Try To Break Deadlock in Talks

NC2901134495 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Jan 29 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia and Yemen held more talks here Sunday [29 January] to try to settle their border dispute, a Yemeni official said without providing any sign of progress despite a week of negotiations.

Saudi Arabia's defense minister, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and Yemen's speaker of parliament, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, led the negotiating teams at a "working session" on Sunday morning, the delegate said.

They were to meet again in the evening.

Presidents Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and Husni Mubarak of Egypt, whose governments mediated a January 15 accord to prevent military escalation after an armed clash, contacted the two sides at the weekend.

Riyadh denied Saturday [28 January] that it had massed troops along the border in the last week after Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih charged that it had done so before withdrawing them to 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the frontier.

The two countries are in dispute over the provinces of Najran, Jizan, and 'Asir close to the border and assigned to Saudi Arabia under a treaty signed in 1934.

Yemen argues the al-Ta'if accord expired in September 1992 but has said it is willing to renegotiate the treaty.

A Yemeni official in Sanaa said Saturday that the two sides had advanced proposals in Riyadh that were "irreconcilable."

"The Yemeni working group is demanding that the al-Ta'if accord is taken as a whole, and insists on normalisation between the two countries prior to a settlement of the border dispute," the Yemeni official said.

"However the Saudis are demanding the renewal of the al-Ta'if accord, the demarcation of the unmarked border from Jabal al-Thar to the Oman-Yemen border, as well as the demarcation of the maritime borders, before any normalisation."

"By massing their troops along the border, Saudi brothers (...) want to put pressure on Yemen," the official added, condemning the "show of force by hardliners in the Saudi leadership which have expansionist aims."

A Saudi official quoted by the Saudi Press Agency denied the charge.

He said Riyadh "remains attached to the terms of the mediation accord concluded between the two countries on January 15 following a previous armed incident on their border and calls on Yemen to show the same commitment."

Both countries then agreed to avoid a military escalation on the border following Syrian and Egyptian mediation aimed at defusing tension caused by a January 10 border clash which diplomats said left 40 Yemenis and 14 Saudis dead.

Yemeni negotiators in Riyadh were to propose the creation of a joint military committee to monitor troop movements on the border, a Yemeni official told AFP in Sanaa.

The committee would be chaired by the Yemeni and Saudi chiefs of staff and include representatives from Syria as well as Egypt, he said.

Its task would be to "check troop movements on the border and prevent any military activity harmful to bilateral ties."

The talks in Riyadh began on January 23.

Yemen's Al-Ahmar on Value of Border Demarcation

JN2801090195 Riyadh Al-JAZIRAH in Arabic 25 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad al-'Aydarus in Riyadh]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and head of the Yemeni side to the Saudi-Yemeni talks, has emphasized that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has a firm determination, full readiness, and good intentions to overcome the differences between the Kingdom and Yemen. [passage omitted]

He said what happened on the joint borders recently was only simple friction between patrols, nothing more, but the Western and Arab media exaggerated the situation.

In his statement to AL-JAZIRAH, Shaykh al-Ahmar said the Yemeni ambassador to the Kingdom will arrive in Riyadh today or tomorrow [25 or 26 January] and the kingdom welcomed him. The Yemeni ambassador is Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab Nu'man.

Answering a AL-JAZIRAH question about guarantees that will ensure tension will not return to the joint borders, Shaykh al-Ahmar said what ensures this is border demarcation. This will be enough in order to avoid any clashes between tribes, shepherds, or others in the two countries.

Answering another question, al-Ahmar said Yemen considers the al-Ta'if agreement signed by the Kingdom and Yemen as a comprehensive and full agreement, and said it organizes the strong bilateral relations, including borders. He said Yemen has no reservations on this agreement.

He expressed optimism about the future of Saudi-Yemeni relations, and said this is the feeling of all Yemenis. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

New Antigovernment Protests Erupt

NC2701204295 Paris AFP in English 1939 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 27 (AFP)—Anti-government protests erupted in two Shiite Moslem villages in Bahrain Friday [27 January] after the burial of a man shot dead by security forces, the exiled opposition said.

Trouble broke out after Friday prayers in Sitrah, southeast of the capital Manama, where 24-year-old Husayn 'Ali al-Safi was shot dead Thursday [26 January], and in Bani Jamrah, northwest of Manama, where another victim of the clashes was buried Thursday.

Supporters of the London-based Movement for the Liberation of Bahrain said al-Safi died when security forces fired live bullets, rubber bullets and tear-gas at demonstrators late Thursday who were demanding restoration of the constitution suspended in 1975.

'Abd-al-Rida Mansur al-Hajji, 30, died of serious wounds sustained in clashes with police 10 days ago and was buried in Bani Jamrah Thursday, said a statement from the opposition movement received by AFP here.

There was no independent confirmation of the opposition reports.

A spokesman for the opposition Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said Thursday in Tehran that al-Hajji died in Sulaymaniyah hospital from bullet wounds he received in the head.

He was the 17th Bahraini to die since the onset of violence in the Gulf archipelago in mid-December, according to opposition sources. The authorities have only reported the death of one policeman.

Clashes broke out between security forces and demonstrators after the arrest on December 5 of Shiite Moslem cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman, who had demanded the restoration of parliament.

The shaykh was later deported to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, from where he travelled to Britain and asked for political asylum.

The IFLB said Thursday that prisoners arrested after clashes in Bahrain "undergo torture and a number of them have died under torture."

The group, headed by Lebanon-based Shaykh 'Ali Mahfuz, said the number of people arrested since the onset of the violence had topped 2,700.

In an interview published in Egypt Friday, the emir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, accused foreign countries of whipping up unrest in Bahrain.

Shaykh 'Isa said: "What has happened is due to meddling by foreign countries in our internal affairs."

Source Says Infiltrators Deported

NC2701214395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 27 Jan (MENA)—A Bahraini security source stressed that the situation in general has returned to normal and that the security situation in the State of Bahrain is stable.

In a statement it made today, the source also stressed that the Bahraini security forces are fulfilling their duties in full so as to assert their control of the situation, establish security, protect public order, utilities, and private possessions, and ensure security and safety for all the citizens and residents.

In the statement that was carried by the GULF NEWS AGENCY, the source said that the committee supervising the interrogation of those detained after participating in the recent riots in Bahrain or those who incited them is working diligently to speed up the release those who are shown to have not been involved in a major way in the incidents and to refer to the judiciary those against whom there is enough evidence to convict them of committing rioting crimes, in order to take measures against them according to the country's prevailing laws.

The security source added that the infiltrators from outside the countries who were shown by the investigations to be involved in the incidents through planning, incitement, or participation have been deported.

It issued a warning to those thinking of committing any disturbances or sabotage to disturb Bahrain's security and stressed that the security forces will forcefully and decisively confront such actions.

It is recalled that Bahrain was the scene of riots in December.

Authorities Say Situation Normal

NC2901204895 Paris AFP in English 2009 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Jan 29 (AFP)—Bahraini authorities on Sunday [29 January] said the situation in the country had returned to normal after a wave of unrest which opposition forces said left 17 dead.

A weekly cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa hailed the "efforts by the security forces to contain the acts of disorder and sabotage carried out by a group at the instigation of foreign parties and aiming to destabilise" the country.

The government "expressed its satisfaction after the situation was brought under control," the official agency GNA [GULF NEWS AGENCY] said.

On Friday [27 January] the Interior Ministry warned that security forces "will take tough action against anybody trying to harm security by causing trouble or carrying out acts of sabotage."

It said the troublemakers were "trying to destabilise the country, threaten people's security and spread sedition."

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, an exiled opposition group, said 17 people were killed in the unrest which erupted between hundreds of Shiite Moslems and security forces in early December after the arrest of a Shiite cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman.

It was the worst trouble in the Gulf archipelago since it gained its independence from a British protectorate in 1971.

Shaykh 'Ali was deported on January 15 and has now fled with two supporters to London where he has asked for political asylum.

Bahraini authorities only acknowledge one person died in the troubles.

Information Minister on Events, Dispute With Qatar

NC2901074395 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad, in Bahrain, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Husayn] Mr. minister, some events took place recently in Bahrain that were limited and some foreign media attempted to exaggerate, as you have said previously. Could you brief us about the role some foreign sides played in exaggerating these events?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Of course, I thank you for your interest in this matter. We are proud of the credibility the Egyptian media enjoys, not only through getting the message across to the Arab world but to the rest of the world. We believe that through our media we can reach the rest of the world with a united and honest statement on what is happening in the Arab world.

As you said previously, the situation is very calm in Bahrain, things are stable. Some incidents did take place. His highness the prince said very frankly that we will always feel grateful for the stances of those countries that supported us during those times. He also noted that the whole world should know about the role some countries played in fanning the flames of crisis. All we can say is that such incidents, praise be to God, have not succeeded. Such acts will always fail because the unity of the sons of Bahrain is strong and their feelings toward their country are of love amongst themselves. His highness the prince is the leader of this secure country—Bahrain—a country that is proud of its Arabism, its Islamic identity, and the solidarity of its sons under any circumstances.

[Husayn] Mr. Minister, we were very happy to hear reports that Bahrain and Qatar decided during the recent Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit to resolve the border dispute between them. Could we learn something about this matter?

[Al-Mu'ayyad] As you have said, during the recent GCC summit we reached an agreement not only to solve pending problems between any two countries, but that all such problems should be solved through bilateral cooperation, if possible, or through the Gulf organization if bilateral cooperation does not succeed. [passage omitted]

Oman

Official Calls For Ending Iraqi 'Isolation'

JN2701190195 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Oman, General 'Ali Bin-Majid al-Ma'mari, minister of palace affairs, has called for putting an end to the isolation imposed on Iraq. In an interview published by 'UMAN newspaper today, he said that what is happening to the Iraqi people is a great disgrace for Arabs. He added: We should move to help this Arab side realize its mistakes and urge it to go back on them.

Al-Ma'mari denied that Oman is moving speedily toward Israel. He said: This is contrary to the facts on the ground. We helped those who moved speedily. Concerned Arab parties are the ones who approved of the option of peace, acknowledged the Madrid formula, and held talks to make this formula reach the results that were achieved on the Palestinian and Jordanian levels.

The Omani official talked about the Islamic organization that was unearthed by Omani authorities last August and the arrest of some 200 of its members. He said that this organization had political orientations that were shaped along directives from outside organizations and not countries. He added that this organization belongs to a world organization that has branches in a number of Arab countries, specifically in the Gulf countries.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan: Yemen 'Fabricated' Border Concentrations

MM2701150495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jan 95 p1

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Prince Sultan Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Concentrations on Borders; Some Yemeni Parties Want To Impede Rapprochement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, defense minister, and inspector general, has denied any Saudi troop concentrations or movements on the borders with Yemen. He said that the source of what happened on the Saudi-Yemeni border front was Yemeni parties and military elements whose aim was to undermine the negotiations and disrupt the move toward restoration of accord and amity between the two fraternal peoples and countries.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Prince Sultan said that the border concentrations are military concentrations fabricated by Yemen and by parties trying to obstruct the current efforts for the restoration of normal relations and settlement of differences between the two neighboring countries.

Prince Sultan denied any Saudi troop concentrations or movements, describing the claims about Saudi military concentrations as claims lacking credibility and as mere fabrications. He said: The truth about military concentrations is that they stem from Yemen and from parties and elements who want and are trying to impair the good intentions to restore accord between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

He added: The military concentrations are by these elements and a result of military emotionalism, because they want to undermine the current fraternal talks between the two countries in Riyadh.

He further said: We emphasize that there is a fine atmosphere of cordiality and understanding between the two countries, and the two states will proceed along the path of love, freternity, and negotiation. Prince Sultan said that the negotiations between the Saudi and Yemeni sides would continue and that they would not stop or be affected by such reactions by some military people on their side.

Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that Damascus is in contact with Riyadh and Sanaa for the continuation of its mediation efforts between the two countries after the renewal of border tension between them. In a statement to AFP, al-Shar' said that he held contacts with senior Saudi and Yemeni officials and that "the two sides expressed determination to calm the border situation." He ruled out the possibility of sending a Syrian mediator to either of the two capitals, adding that "the situation does not call for such a step."

Reiterates Denial of Border Concentrations

LD2901200595 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and defense minister, inaugurated and inspected the training school and maintenance center at the Prince Sultan Airbase, he made a statement to journalists. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent in military uniform] Your Highness; you have received the Yemeni speaker of parliament and following that meeting a committee was formed through which Saudi Arabia will negotiate. What is your highness' perception of the stages covered by this committee to reach a solution?

[Prince Sultan] The meetings were characterized by lofty and fraternal spirits. You should not believe, so to speak, this world clamor. We are sensing good spirits, patience, and cooperation. God willing we will shortly reach the resolution of this question in a way that serves the interest of both the Saudi and Yemeni people. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What about foreign allegations about the military concentrations on the borders with Yemen. What is the truth about that?

[Prince Sultan] There is no truth in that.

Comments on Talks With Yemen

NC2901201195 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jan 95

[Interview with Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz by MBC correspondent Fahd al-Humud; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sultan] First of all, I thank MBC for conducting this interview and posing these questions. Thank Almighty God, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques seeks amity, peace, and above all good neighborliness. The Saudi-Yemeni talks are proceeding with firm and sober steps. The dialogue is constructive despite the rumors to the contrary by foreign and, indeed, some regional media. Therefore I personally believe that the results we will reach will be good for both countries.

[Al-Humud] Your Highness, what are the main points of the working document the Saudi-Yemeni joint committee will draw up and then refer to the leaders of the two countries?

[Sultan] First of all we rely on God, may He be exalted and praised, and secondly on the al-Ta'if Treaty of 1934. This treaty states that the border runs from al-Muwassam near Jizan on the Red Sea to Jabal al-Thar, just past Najran. The first step deals with the resetting of border markings which have been washed away by floods or obliterated by domestic animals and time. The talks will use the al-Ta'if Treaty as a basis, with a view to implementing it. The talks are also based on letters that have been exchanged between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia, and our brother His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemen Arab Republic. The two letters in question explain what type of good, brotherly relations must be maintained between the two countries in the future.

[Al-Humud] Your Highness, some media have claimed that there are Saudi forces on the Yemeni border. Saudi Arabia has denied that it has massed troops on the border. Your Highness, can you tell us about the status of the Saudi forces on the Yemeni border?

[Sultan] You know very well that Saudi Arabia is a very large country. We have stationed forces in every corner of the kingdom to safeguard the country's security and to conduct frequent military exercises, which are necessary in such a large country. It is well known that nowhere in the world does a country station all its forces in one place. However, we have massed no troops on the border of fraternal Yemen. None at all. The term border area signifies a few miles or kilometers; it does not cover military positions farther inside the country. Therefore we do not object to Yemeni positions that are well inside their country. Even while there were Yemeni troop concentrations close to the border—and they perhaps even crossed the border, as happened at the Ibn-Hammudah position—this did not affect our resolve to press forward with our plan to reach an understanding with our Yemeni brothers. However, there has been no massing of Saudi troops. Saudi forces did not cross the border, not even one inch.

[Al-Humud] Your Highness, a proposal has been made to form a military committee comprised of Egyptian and Syrian officers. What does Saudi Arabia think of this proposal?

[Sultan] We always welcome every fraternal meeting and all fraternal backing for the principles of peace and amity. Our Syrian brothers began these good offices and later the Egyptian brothers did the same. However, current Saudi-Yemeni relations do not make mediation by any Arab brothers necessary. Even though we might welcome Arab good offices, we already have a plan for Saudi-Yemeni military committees to jointly monitor the border. This is what we hope we will agree upon and implement soon with our Yemeni brothers.

'Responsible Source' Denies Troops Massing at Border

LD2701222795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 27 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source has stated to SPA that the report attributed to His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the fraternal Yemeni Republic, by the BBC this evening to the effect that there are Saudi troops massed at the Yemeni-Saudi border is devoid of truth. The fact is that a statement was issued yesterday by a responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation which stressed that there was no massing of Saudi troops at the border with the Yemeni republic.

The source went on to say: The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to the joint statement issued by the two fraternal countries on 15 January, and the government of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that the fraternal government of the Yemeni Republic will share its eagerness to be committed to the contents of the above mentioned statement.

It is hoped that when they receive information of this kind, the brothers in Yemen will contact directly the relevant authorities in the Saudi kingdom to ascertain the truth of such an information so as to maintain the climate of harmony and understanding between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Receives New Yemeni Envoy

LD2901173895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1322 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 29 Jan, SPA—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, received in his office today Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, the ambassador of the Yemeni Republic to the Kingdom, who presented to his highness a copy of his credentials before submitting them King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Paper Sees Netanya as 'Painful' Reply to Talks Failure

MM2701094095 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 23 Jan 95 pp1, 4

[Editorial: "The Painful Reply"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The painful fedayeen operation which killed or injured 80 Israelis in the Netanya resort in occupied Palestine yesterday was a quick reply to the failure of the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting at the Ertz crossing. The meeting failed to persuade the Tel Aviv government to stop the feverish settlement campaign in the West Bank. That meeting could only produce, at the very most, a mere commitment to continue the negotiations for the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

The meeting was expected to fail even before it started. 'Arafat, who "condemned the fedayeen operation" and who is the weaker party, cannot put pressure on the stronger party to wrest an Israeli agreement to stop the settlements at least, that being the central point of disagreement not only between the two sides but also involving some Arab, Islamic, and world states who see Rabin's insistence on expansion as a violation of all the signed agreements and international resolutions and as a threat to the Middle East peace process, creating an inclination in Congress to reconsider the loan guarantees.

Israel, which flouts Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter, proceeds from the premise that such voices or resolutions merely constitute professional clamor and that the international community cannot do anything that would affect Israel or make it balance the risks against the deterrence possibilities. The mere hint of a reconsideration of the guarantees, or the holding of regular meetings with 'Arafat to rescue the autonomy negotiations, will not affect a policy which Israel believes serves its interests, particularly as it is more capable of exploiting Arab contradictions and differences and of continuously plotting peace at the expense of legitimate rights, not without an understanding of the traditions of the ruling establishment there and its policy toward the entire Arab homeland.

The Palestinian leadership and the frontline states are called upon to change their lines, end their contradictions, revive coordination, and redefine their direction toward peaceful objectives based on applying their laws and analyzing matters and forms in a contemporary manner, not on one concept which accepts erroneous assumptions. They should deeply explore the Israeli mentality and study it in light of realities and with the future in mind. We should particularly realize that the Palestinian struggle policy is, to it, a matter of dealing with a changing destiny. The intifadah was the most prominent feature of that struggle. In fact it was the factor which led to the Oslo agreement, but the results were not equal to the action, and that is why the fedayeen operations have continued as a quick reply to any Israeli obstruction aimed at dividing and fragmenting the signed agreements.

The Palestinian people have tried all ways of defending their rights. They are different from all the other Arab citizens because that quality of historic defiance is theirs for the next confrontation. Insistence on building more settlements and on obstructing the implementation of the autonomy provisions is no more than a reflection of the pressure of the element of fear facing Israel. If the time element is now in its favor, there could be some critical moments at any time. The painful operations deep into Israel are one aspect confirming the impossibility of having territory and peace at the same time.

Yemen

Salih Confirms Saudi Concentrations in BBC Interview

JN2701184595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, has confirmed the existence of Saudi military concentrations in front of Yemeni areas. He said that these concentrations can be seen with the naked eye. He also noted that the concentrations had been intensified on Wednesday [25 January]. He added that after contacts were held with the committee that is currently meeting in Saudi Arabia, which in turn held contacts with the brothers in the kingdom, the Saudi military concentrations withdrew from the areas opposite the positions toward the [words indistinct] region between (?al- Buq'ah) and Najran [words indistinct] 10-15 km away from Yemeni territory. He explained that the Saudi concentrations are made up of two armored and mechanized brigades.

In an interview with London Radio, the brother president said that the Saudi concentrations are probably intended to impose the status quo regarding the border demarcation. He said: The concentrations come at a time when Yemen has shown good intentions and sent a delegation to negotiate and resolve problems within the framework of bilateral dialogue and brotherly understanding. However, it seems that there are people who want to impose the status quo. This policy will not, in fact, succeed.

On the statements attributed to Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al- Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, in which he denied any military concentrations from either side, the brother president said: We affirmed to him that there were no concentrations on the Yemeni side. We have time and again declared that even if an aggression is carried out by the brothers in Saudi Arabia, we will not confront it nor will we mass any troops. Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin- Husayn al-Ahmar was correct when he said that there were no concentrations on our side. But as for the brothers in Saudi Arabia, the concentrations are there and we can see them on the ground. Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar is in Riyadh and has no knowledge about what is going on on the ground.

Responding to a question on the progress of the talks between the two sides, the brother president said: So far, no results have been reached. We hope that positive results will be reached.

On his expectations about holding a Yemeni-Saudi summit and his meeting with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, the brother president said: We should first hope for the success of the committee in Riyadh. The committee's mission is to pave the way for any summit. We believe that a summit can only take place with a good and calm atmosphere, away from any tension so that it can be successful.

Asked whether the brothers in Syria and Egypt have been informed of the serious developments, given that they are mediators between the two sides, the brother president said: We [words indistinct] and hope that Syrian-Egyptian efforts and any other efforts will continue to contain any problems. Yemen aspires to resolve problems through dialogue [words indistinct]. If unsuccessful, the mediation [words indistinct].

Responding to a question on the presence of Yemeni forces in the border areas, the brother president said that there have been no significant movements on our side. The existing forces [words indistinct] and there is no movement or concentrations. [words indistinct] because there is no interest in that.

Responding to a question on his European tour, which took him to France, the Netherlands, and Germany, the brother president said that the tour came within the framework of the longstanding bilateral relations and cooperation with those states. He said that during the tour, bilateral relations, spheres of cooperation, and issues of common interest were discussed.

Discusses Border Issue With Egypt's Mubarak

JN2801204095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone conversation took place today between brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They exchanged views on bilateral relations, as well as developments in both the regional and Arab arenas, including the situation between our country and the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Discusses Situation With Syria's al-Asad

JN2901070195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two telephone conversations were held yesterday between President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

During the two conversations, the two leaders exchanged views on issues of common interest as well as regional and Arab developments, including developments in the situation between our country and brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Ahmar: Border Concentration Rumors Unfounded

MM2701151095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jan 95 p4

[Interview with House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar by 'Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri in Riyadh on 26 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Shahri] How true are the claims about concentration of Saudi military forces some 3 km from the Yemeni front positions?

[Al-Ahmar] These are completely unfounded rumors meant to influence the course of our talks with the Saudi brothers.

[Al-Shahri] But these claims have been attributed to Yemeni military commands.

[Al-Ahmar] Some media elements do not want a restoration of normal Saudi-Yemeni relations. I have today (yesterday) [26 January] contacted senior military commanders in the staff headquarters and the defense ministry. They all confirmed that there were no Saudi military concentrations.

[Al-Shahri] Did your contacts include others?

[Al-Ahmar] All the military and political commands emphasized that none of them made any statements about Saudi military concentrations on the borders.

[Al-Shahri] What is the latest on your talks in Riyadh?

[Al-Ahmar] The joint committee is still working and we hope to fulfill the aspirations of the two countries by achieving everything that is in the interest of the two fraternal peoples. We are continuously optimistic about these talks.

[Al-Shahri] Is it true that a meeting that was scheduled to be held today (yesterday) between the two sides was postponed?

[Al-Ahmar] You know that today (yesterday) and tomorrow (today) [27 January] are weekend holidays in the Kingdom and, therefore, a meeting between the two sides was not on.

[Al-Shahri] How do you explain the flow of statements from Sanaa, sometimes attributed to military sources and other times to diplomatic sources, maintaining that the talks are faltering or that there is tension on the border?

[Al-Ahmar] All that perhaps emanates from parties who want to prevent agreement on a formula with our brothers in the Kingdom for the settlement of all problems with them and for the restoration of normal relations. But there has been no statement by any official source in Yemen supporting such rumors.

Sources on al-Ahmar's Comments

JN2701130595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jan 95

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ranking Yemeni gOvernment sources commented at dawn today on the statements by several members of the Yemeni negotiating delegation in Riyadh yesterday in which they played down the danger posed by the Saudi troop concentrations on the borders with Yemen. These sources said that these statements came as a goodwill gesture to make the current negotiations a success, and that they are more of a courtesy gesture than a reflection of the reality of the state of affairs on the Yemeni-Saudi borders.

In a statement distributed in Sanaa, these sources said that Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, deputy prime minister and planning minister, and the other members of the Yemeni negotiating delegation in Riyadh know better than anyone else that while negotiations on the borders are under way in Riyadh, columns of Saudi tanks and armored vehicles and squadrons of fighter planes have continued to advance and to be massed in the border areas with Yemen since last Tuesday in an attempt to pursue the annexation of more Yemeni territory and imposing the fait accompli policy to demarcate the borders with tanks.

These sources explained that Saudi Arabia seeks through these troop concentrations to bring pressure to bear on Yemen in the wake of its suffering from the conspiracy against its unity and national economy. By doing this, Saudi Arabia falls victim to the same miscalculations the secessionists have had.

Al-Iryani on Border Tension, Regional Issues

MM2701160695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p6

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Sadiq] Why did you come to Washington instead of joining the Yemeni delegation which went to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Iryani] I had some commitments, which go back to last November, with the university from which I obtained my BA and MA degrees. [passage omitted] Since I was coming to the United States, it was only natural to visit Washington to meet with the Department of State officials I know, to discuss all matters pertaining to Yemen and the United States. I shall also be attending a seminar at Georgetown University.

Furthermore, it happened that the American Foreign Relations Council, which is in New York, will be holding next Wednesday [1 February] a symposium on Yemen from the time of the Unity negotiations to the Secession War; I was asked to participate in this symposium, and so I will.

As to the delegation's visit to Saudi Arabia, it was scheduled to take place about 10 days ago, but certain conditions and events caused it to be delayed. In fact I had made a provisional commitment to the University, and out of loyalty to it, I had to come to the United States.

[Sadiq] In the light of the recent improvement in relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, many Saudis have been surprised by the Yemeni escalation of the conflict between the two countries. How do you explain this escalation?

[Al-Iryani] I prefer not to discuss the details of the recent past. Suffice it to say, however, that both sides have been anxious not to escalate matters.

[Sadiq] What have been the roles of the Syrians and Egyptians in their recent mediation?

[Al-Iryani] I have had some contacts with the Syrian role but none with the Egyptian role. Consequently, I cannot discuss the latter. As regards the Syrian brothers, I can say that their visit was preceded by important and rational contacts between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz and brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The matter then had entered a stage of pacification. Yet the brother Syrians advised that the position at which the presence of forces had caused the misunderstanding, be vacated of all troops. The Yemeni leadership decided to respond to the Syrian advice and the suggestion. This response has made a vital contribution to the calming down of the situation and the improvement of conditions, making them more conducive to the holding of a serious discussion on the disputed and controversial matters. [passage omitted]

[Said] During the recent escalation, your view was at one time that the escalation took place in Yemeni territory while at another that it was in a disputed area. How can the area concerned be Yemeni territory and a disputed land at one and the same time?

[Al-Iryani] I was not aware that Yemen had said that the conflict had taken place in a disputed area. I have not seen anything of this sort. When we showed the brother Syrians the area subject to conflict, not dispute, it was clear that what has happened was a movement inside Yemeni territory and a return to a military post which the Yemeni forces had occupied for more than 20 years. As I have already said, the post was vacated during the war of division, or the War of Secession. So it was only natural for us to return to it. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] It has been said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has put to Yemen proposals or a formula to resolve the dispute, and that the Yemeni side has been procrastinating. Why is that?

[Al-Iryani] The Saudi view on the question of borders between the two countries was put to us in July 1992. It was only natural for those views to serve the interests of the other side. But we did not want to say no or reject the Saudi view, despite the fact that this would have been possible on a legal and not a political basis. Yet we avoided saying that we do not accept that point of view and entered into purely legal negotiations which had nothing to do with the border issues but with the holding of negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] What is the American role in the matter, particularly as the officials here have stated that they were not asked nor did they ask to intervene?

[Al-Iryani] If that is what they said, then I agree with them. It seems the American side prefers that we do not discuss their role, they being a third party, and so it is better that we leave them out.

However, the American role is a positive one. As you may recall, when the conflict began with the issuing of warnings to the oil companies in March and April 1992, the U.S. State Department issued a statement stating its views. The conflict was quite tense at the time, much more than now. The State Department said that it urges both sides to overcome the causes of the conflict between them and that the way to resolve conflicts by peaceful means is well known: It starts with negotiations, then mediation, then arbitration and adjudication.

Since that moment and until now, that is for two years or more, we have been affirming to the American side that as far as we are concerned we accept these proposals 100 percent. We only bring the Americans into the discussions on these issues on the basis of the official position the United States has declared.

[Sadiq] Have there been any contacts between you and the Americans over the border dispute?

[Al-Iryani] They did ask, but we told them that we are about to overcome the differences and that they should not call us, we will call them.

[Sadiq] How do you envisage the solution of the border conflict?

[Al-Iryani] I believe the American perception is acceptable. In fact, it is not an American perception but a legal one which falls within the framework of resolving disputes among countries. The peaceful settlement of conflicts among countries cannot go beyond the four principles. Our acceptance of the American perception is not because it is an American invention, but because it falls within the framework of international law and it is well entrenched within the framework of the UN Charter, and so it is 100 percent acceptable.

[Sadiq] Should it not prove possible to resolve the dispute by negotiations, would you be ready or are you determined to raise the issue before the International Court of Justice?

[Al-Iryani] These matters can be decided upon through agreement by both sides. But I wish to point out that the Al-Ta'if Agreement has an appendix which has the same force as the agreement itself, and was signed by both King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and Imam Yahya Hamid al-Din [the Imam-ruler of Yemen who recaptured the country from the Turks]. Article 3, or perhaps 2, of the Al-Ta'if Agreement states that both sides would, in resolving conflicts between them, abide by the provisions of the Pledge of Arbitration appended to the Agreement, even if the cause of the conflict has nothing to do with the Agreement itself.

[Sadiq] What is the agenda for your talks in Washington?

[Al-Iryani] I have a meeting with Mark Paris [as transliterated], one of the secretary of state's assistants, and with Martin Indike [as transliterated], the official in charge of Middle Eastern Affairs at the National Security Council. These meetings fall within the framework of meetings that take place when any Yemeni official, and not I alone, passes through Washington. Meetings and exchanges of views take place then but not necessarily on important or specific matters, but to expound Yemen's views in respect of any new developments on the regional arena and certainly on the Arab arena. As to the international arena, this has its cavaliers. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] What can Sanaa do to prove its credibility with regard to reconciliation with the Gulf countries?

[Al-Iryani] In fact the question should the other way round. When did Yemen resort to lies in its relations with the Gulf countries, so that it needs to prove its credibility? If it can be proven that we have resorted to lies in our relations, then they would have the right to ask us to prove our credibility.

[Sadiq] What, then, are the features of Yemen's relations with Iraq now?

[Al-Iryani] Once more I would like to reiterate that Yemen's relations with Iraq during Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait were different from Yemen's relations with Iraq today. Our relationship with Iraq during the crisis and the Iraqi forces' occupation of Kuwait was not one of confrontation but one of clear rejection of the Iraqi political position in the Kuwait occupation issue. But after Iraq's departure from Kuwait, Yemen was of the opinion—and continues to be so—that Iraq's peace and security will always constitute part of the peace and security of the Arab homeland.

Secondly, we have differed and continue to differ even with the U.S. Administration about the futility of the continued harsh and severe sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people. Following the end of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the view of the Yemeni leadership has been that it is in the interest of all that the Iraqi people should feel that they were leading a normal life, so that they would be given the opportunity to change their way of dealing with others.

Though four years have passed, it is very regrettable that matters have not been as any Arab and any Muslim would have liked them to be.

As to our contacts with Iraq and our exchange of visits with it, these are, in our opinion, not a crime against the Gulf countries, or the Arab homeland or the Islamic nation. The Iraqi people are a fraternal people.

[Sadiq] How true are the reports that Iraqi airmen and technicians have been in Yemen and participated in the war?

[Al-Iryani] This is a lie and a fabrication which has no basis in truth. Anyone who says this should prove it. The secessionists arrested a number of Iraqi teachers. One of the foreign embassies in Sanaa knew one of those teachers and recognized him when his picture was shown on the television screens and so it contacted us saying that he was a teacher and an artist and we have previously bought some paintings from him.

[Sadiq] What is your relatioshipn with some of the Islamic organizations? As you are aware, Washington announced last Friday that it intends to escalate its measures and war against terrorism and the terrorists.

[Al-Iryani] Firstly, we have no relations whatsoever with any organization that calls itself an Islamic organization and takes a stand opposed to any Arab or Islamic country.

Secondly, as to what is rumored or said about terrorism sponsored by some Islamic organizations, we wish to stress that we affirm our condemnation of such an attitude. We do not ask those who level such charges to provide the proof of this. But when they come to say this, our answer is we are against any terrorism or act of terrorism.

Thirdly, the Yemeni Republic deals with governments and not with organizations. Thank God, the last organization we have been dealing with, namely the PLO, is now a semi-state.

As to the organizations that are opposed to Arab or Islamic countries, Yemen has no relations with them at all.

[Sadiq] How about Yemen's relation with Sudan and Iran?

[Al-Iryani] That is another matter. Sudan is an Arab and Muslim country which the United States accuses of supporting terrorism. When we meet with our brothers in Sudan, we tell them that this is what is being said about you. It is your duty to prove the opposite and convince those who level such charges against you that they were unfounded. The same applies in the case of Iran.

Furthermore, Yemen is not the only Arab and Islamic country with relations with Sudan and Iran. To us, they are not outcast states, in the terms used by some Western countries. Our relations with Sudan and Iran are sound, precise, and correct. If there are differences between these countries and other countries, we act as a helping factor toward resolving these differences and not as an escalating factor.

[Sadiq] What is the role of the Socialist Party in the Yemeni political arena, particularly since it is noted that its role has shrunk?

[Al-Iryani] Firstly, the Socialist Party does not exist in the current coalition. It should hold a general conference and choose its leadership according to its bylaws and constitution. The leadership it has chosen so far is a provisional one. Furthermore, under the canopy of multiplicity of parties and democracy, it is natural that one party would be in government while another is in the opposition. The Socialist Party now acts as an opposition, be it in regard to the granting of confidence to the Government or in regard even to the election of the president of the republic, as has happened in some cases. There is nothing derogatory, disdainful, or wrathful about this. The Socialist Party now supports the opposition and not the ruling coalition. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] What is the truth about the fears being expressed about the Islamic fundamentalist tide in Yemen, and has it been tamed within the framework of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, or is it threatening to stage a coup within the Reform Grouping and consequently endanger Yemen?

[Al-Iryani] This question should be addressed to the Reform Grouping, as I am a member of the People's Congress only.

[Sadiq] A number of diplomats abroad of Southern Yemeni origin are still being exposed to oppression, such as those in London, for example, who have suffered demotion such as the consul. In Switzerland, their salaries have been suspended and sequestrated by the Swiss Bankruptcy Board. When will this discrimination against them come to an end?

[Al-Iryani] Firstly, there is no discrimination against any diplomat. Those Yemenis whose services abroad have ended are North Yemenis and South Yemenis alike, despite the fact that this terminology is not right. They were recalled in a regular way. Most of them have returned, but two decided to remain in Switzerland and to seek work and pleasure. There are no proceedings against them. But they do not wish to return. Two other diplomats were in Paris and have been transferred to the UAE and there are no proceedings against them. The former ambassador to Paris, who was a zealous supporter of the partition of Yemen, has returned to Sanaa and there are no proceedings against him. Indeed, his salaries have been paid to him. Shortly he will be appointed to a post inside the homeland. In London, nobody was punished at all. The former ambassador, my colleague Shayi' Muhsin, has asked to be appointed member of the Yemeni delegation to the UN European headquarters. He was offered the post of ambassador somewhere else, as he still has two years to serve before he can retire. It was I who offered him that post before my return as foreign minister, at the request of the president of the Republic. He told me he does not wish to become an ambassador in any country but would like to become an advisor in the Yemeni mission to the European headquarters of the United Nations. So I responded to his wish.

So to say that there was any discrimination, oppression, calling to account, or persecution is false. Those who claim to be persecuted are only seeking to make money from this. [passage omitted]

Official Says Proposals on Border Issue 'Irreconcilable'

NC2801154695 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 28 Jan 95

[By Habib Trabelsi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, Jan 28 (AFP)—Yemen and Saudi negotiators trying to resolve their border dispute at talks in Riyadh were stuck on proposals that are "irreconcilable," a Yemeni official said Saturday [28 January].

Saudi Arabia meanwhile denied it had massed troops and weapons along the two countries' border in moves which the Yemeni official charged were designed to put pressure on the negotiations.

Negotiators prepared to hold more talks in Riyadh Saturday in a bid to resolve the dispute which has provoked several armed clashes on the border, but an official in Sanaa was pessimistic about chances for success.

The official in Sanaa who requested anonymity told AFP that draft proposals from the two sides were "irreconcilable."

The two countries are in dispute over the provinces of Najran, Jizan, and 'Asir close to the border and assigned to Saudi Arabia under a treaty signed in 1934.

Yemen argues the al-Ta'if accord expired in September 1992 but has said it is willing to renegotiate the treaty.

"The Yemeni working group is demanding that the al-Ta'if accord is taken as a whole, and insists on normalisation between the two countries prior to a settlement of the border dispute," the Yemeni official said.

"However the Saudis are demanding the renewal of the al-Ta'if accord, the demarcation of the unmarked border from Jabal al-Thar to the Oman-Yemen border, as well as the demarcation of the maritime borders, before any normalisation."

"By massing their troops along the border, Saudi brothers (...) want to put pressure on Yemen," the official added, condemning the "show of force by hardliners in the Saudi leadership which have expansionist aims."

Saudi Arabia on Saturday denied claims by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that Saudi troops had massed along the disputed border.

A Saudi official quoted by the Saudi Press Agency said Riyadh "remains attached to the terms of the mediation accord concluded between the two countries on January 15 following a previous armed incident on their border and calls on Yemen to show the same commitment."

Both countries then agreed to avoid a military escalation on the border following Syrian mediated aimed at defusing tension caused by a January 10 border clash which diplomats said left 40 Yemenis and 14 Saudis dead.

Salih told the British Broadcasting Corporation's Arabic service on Friday [27 January] that Saudi Arabia had massed troops on the border with Yemen but pulled them back after Sanaa intervened with the Saudi authorities.

On Thursday [26 January], military and political sources in Sanaa said Saudi Arabia had moved troops, tanks and missiles to within three kilometres (two miles) of Yemen's first lines of defence. Western diplomats confirmed the reports.

Yemeni negotiators in Riyadh were to propose the creation of a joint military committee to monitor troop movements on the border, a Yemeni official told AFP in Sanaa.

The committee would be chaired by the Yemeni and Saudi chiefs of staff and include representatives from Syria as well as Egypt, which has also been mediating to prevent further clashes, he said.

Its task would be to "check troop movements on the border and prevent any military activity harmful to bilateral ties."

The official daily AL-JUMHURIYAH wrote Saturday that Yemen, which emerged "exhausted" from a two-month civil war last year, "refuses to be dragged into an armed conflict with any other country.

"Our main concern is to repair our economy which is suffering from the consequences of the war, and to alleviate the suffering of our people," the paper added.

Salih has said that Yemen would not retaliate if it came under attack from Saudi Arabia.

Ba-Jammal on Principles of Saudi-Yemeni Talks

MM3001114695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jan 95 p2

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and head of the Yemeni delegation to the Saudi-Yemeni negotiations, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Bunyan] Have you entered the stage of drafting the joint paper?

[Ba-Jammal] Yes. We have begun, we and the Saudi side together, because we have become one negotiating group, and there are no differences between the visualizations put forward by both sides. We have agreed in principle to work together and go beyond the stage of the recording of positions or the presentation of a paper by one side to the other side to reply to it and so get bogged in a whirlpool of useless dialogue by "remote control." We have agreed to talk matters over together and by doing so we get closer.

[Al-Bunyan] How do you explain this speedy progress?

[Ba-Jammal] This is due to the fact that we came here to harmonize our differences and reach an agreement. All of us are in need of safeguarding the security of the region, and this indicates that the two sides share a general feeling that they should work together for the good of our region and for saving it from crises, otherwise we would remain as we were.

[Al-Bunyan] What are the most prominent basic points in the joint paper?

[Ba-Jammal] The first and most prominent feature of the joint paper is our inclination to resolve our problems through understanding and our belief that the time has come for us to find a common formula through our understanding of the pending issues or those of a historical nature.

The second prominent feature, which is one of the basic constants, is to work together to prevent all threats to the security of our region.

The third feature is that we should cooperate for the sake of economic and social development and the creation of a happy life for our peoples, because our two peoples are bound together by one culture, religion, faith, and close traditions.

[Al-Bunyan] How far have you gone with the preparations for President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Saudi Arabia and his summit meeting with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz?

[Ba-Jammal] We are working for the summit meeting between the political leaderships of the two countries. If we succeed in reaching agreement about everything, the summit will be blessed and our work and efforts will be crowned with success. We are working anxiously to ensure the success of our task and our mission so that the summit is held and is valuable as a result of good and successful preparation.

[Al-Bunyan] Are you optimistic about the possible declaration of agreement and the reaching of a "happy ending"?

[Ba-Jammal] God willing. We have drawn closer in our positions by 50 to 60 percent.

[Al-Bunyan] Will the forthcoming summit, then, take place before the month of Ramadan?

[Ba-Jammal] If we manage to reach an agreement tonight and the Yemeni president comes tomorrow, that would be welcomed.

[Al-Bunyan] What are the most important features of the Yemeni note to the Saudi Arabian Government?

[Ba-Jammal] The Yemeni note contained three basic constants:

Firstly, that the post-unity Yemeni borders are indivisible and cannot be viewed as divided into parts, but as a unified whole. This is how we should look upon them, and this, in fact, serves the interests of both countries.

Borders are considered to constitute an integrated whole, under the concept of borders, because they constitute one geographic and social system. Borders should be viewed like a group of bodies linked together. This would frustrate anyone seeking to forge a rift here or there, and this would be of benefit to both sides during the practical implementation of any agreements reached in the field of tangible reality and the development and consolidation of relations between Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as it would provide an objective basis guaranteeing for us not only the resolution of our borders issues but also the creation of good- neighborly conditions and social and human relations that are more advanced than they were.

Secondly, all treaties and agreements constitute one integrated whole and we deal with them within their legal, historical, and social framework. In certain cases, we deal with them with an open spirit. This is a basic principle in geographical integration and all matters pertaining to geographical integration.

Thirdly, and this is a very important point in my opinion and helps to settle many conflicts: What we agree to implement but cannot implement, we refer to arbitration.

[Al-Bunyan] Is this the framework you view as a basis for the achievement of results from the current negotiations with the Saudi side?

[Ba-Jammal] I believe that the Saudi brothers' views are not different from this framework, except perhaps in bringing one matter forward or pushing another backward, or merging two matters together. But I believe there is no difference between us on the general framework, except perhaps as regards such things as the timing and positioning of matters. Otherwise it is only logical. Do you not think it logical if I were to tell you that should we differ on some issues, we should not fight but submit them to arbitration? This is a principle of peace and care for the unity, peace, and security of the region. Thus we frustrate any opportunity by others to play their tricks between us.

[Al-Bunyan] Have you felt that there were any contents of a particular nature in the Saudi note?

[Ba-Jammal] The note's contents were akin to what we have in mind and quite close to it. I see nothing in the Saudi note to arouse anger or infuriate one. Through dialogues and discussions, we shall, God willing, achieve good results. Do not forget it is a long time since we had any dialogue together.

[Al-Bunyan] In light of the current negotiations between the two sides, can we say this time that "Failure is forbidden?"

[Ba-Jammal] I say that failure is totally undesirable. It is in our hands to prevent failure. It is in the hands of both sides and not one side alone. As you know, political and diplomatic relations are like a table-tennis game. It takes two sides to play. So as long as the other side is able to respond to you and hit the ball back to you and you hit it back to him, the game will have a rhythm and those watching the game will have enjoyment and admiration as they see the two sides playing a good game, which is a game of peace, harmony, love, and fraternity.

[Al-Bunyan] Do you view the future climate as conducive to the success of the negotiations?

[Ba-Jammal] Looking to the future and not to the present or the past—indeed, anyone looking to the future—with eagerness to preserve peace and stability and save the future generations from fear and worry, in my opinion is bound to make each of us realize the importance of agreement. This is a historic responsibility that we shoulder toward future generations and toward the development of the region and its protection from the storms that could come and uproot us all and put us in a position such that no one can control the destiny of the other. Such time has passed and we must cooperate together so that we may not be uprooted by the storms.

[Al-Bunyan] Are you ready to reply to the Saudi note?

[Ba-Jammal] We are ready to discuss everything. But as I have already said, we have gone past the stage when one side would put forward one or two papers for discussion and the other side would respond with a third paper. There is no basis for the recording of stands. For if I am to submit a paper to the Saudi side and it replies to it, and then I put forward to it another paper and so on so forth, then we will not accomplish any results. We have agreed to discuss the two papers simultaneously or present another single paper. The principle of debating and discussion shall be the basic principle.

[Al-Bunyan] It has been reported, however, that each side has received a note from the other side and has asked for some time to reply to it.

[Ba-Jammal] That is true. But at the time we estimated the discussions to take about 24 hours, or maybe more. But, anyway, we have agreed to meet, debate, and discuss. The more we discuss matters the closer we become and the more we crystallize some ideas which might become fully developed between us by then.

[Al-Bunyan] Is it possible for the negotiating group to form follow-up committees?

[Ba-Jammal] Every work needs a stationary, mobile, or temporary mechanism. Every action needs the appropriate tool necessary for it. So if we find that our work requires a mechanism of experts, then we would form a team of experts in history or whatever for it. Even if matters required the existence of a supreme committee, such a committee, in fact, exists. It is headed from the Saudi side by Prince Sultan Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz and from the Yemeni side by Prime Minister 'Abd-al- 'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani. It could also be on the level of the summit, which God willing, will take place soon.

Spokesman Supports Arab Position on NPT

JN2901154795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—Iraq has announced its support for the call for linking the Arab states' renewed signature of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] to the acceptance of the representatives of the Zionist entity to sign the treaty.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry described the indifference to Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and the focus on some other countries in the region in this regard as a selective and unfair position. He urged the Arab countries to reject this position categorically and insist on a sound and balanced position in this regard.

The spokesman pointed out that Iraq has always adopted a firm, principled position by calling for the implementation of international agreements, particularly those pertaining to the pan-Arab security, in a comprehensive and just way.

He said that during the international conference on banning chemical weapons, which was held in Paris in 1989, Iraq urged the Arabs to study and adopt a unified position, to focus on banning and removing all types of weapons of mass destruction from the region, and not to neglect the nuclear weapons the Zionist entity possesses. As a result, Iraq won their support, as well as their agreement to make this position a clear and strong one.

He added that in April, 1990, President Saddam Husayn asserted to a U.S. Congressional delegation, headed by Robert Dole, current leader of the U.S. Senate majority, who visited Iraq at that time, that Iraq was ready to remove and ban all weapons of mass destruction from the region on condition that the nuclear weapons of the Zionist entity be removed and that Israel meet the terms of banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This position was stressed during the Baghdad summit that was held in May, 1990.

The spokesman pointed out that President Saddam Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak discussed this subject in 1990, and President Saddam Husayn encouraged Egypt to continue its contacts to promote that position as an Arab one supported by Iraq and to win international support for it.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said: In light of these constant stands, which proceed from concern about the pan-Arab security, and irrespective of the stands of certain Arab governments, Iraq supports the call for linking Arab states' renewed signature of the NPT to the acceptance of the representatives of Zionist entity to sign the treaty, to approve the system of guarantees, and to bring all its nuclear installations under international inspection. This is because this entity is the only party in the region that did not sign the NPT in the past and still refuses to sign it. It also refuses to bring its nuclear installations under international inspection and continues to produce nuclear weapons, something which poses a serious threat to pan-Arab security and regional and world peace.

He said that Iraq draws attention to Paragraph 14 of UN Security Council Resolution 687 issued under Chapter Seven of the UN Charter. In that respect, the UN Security Council demanded the implementation of all paragraphs of that resolution concerning the Iraq weapons. Those are Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, whose implementation has been completed. Meanwhile, the UN Security Council did not take any step to implement Paragraph 14 of the resolution, which reads: "The measures Iraq is to undertake according to Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of Resolution 687 are steps that aim to establish a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and all delivery missiles and to impose a world ban on chemical weapons."

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: This shows that the position calling for removing all weapons of mass destruction from the region is based on international legitimacy and Chapter Seven of the UN Charter. This also shows that applying the paragraphs concerning Iraq and disregarding the implementation of the paragraph concerning the region, especially with regard to Israel's possession of nuclear weapons, is a selective, unfair position, which should be categorically rejected by the Arab states. He said that the Arab states should insist on their sound, balanced position.

BABIL Hopes for 'Firm' Arab Stand on NPT

JN2901120895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has said that it hopes the Arab League's call for the Arabs to adopt a joint stand on the Zionist entity's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] will remain firm. It said it hoped that this was not merely a tactical position meant to improve the negotiating stands of certain Arab regimes.

In an editorial today, the paper wonders about the belated awakening of the league, which, along with several Arab regimes, condoned the wicked anti-Iraq military aggression, and the ensuing resolutions that harmed the military and political edifice Iraq built to effect a regional balance and confront the Zionist entity, the Arabs' enemy.

The paper adds that Resolution 687 and the other anti-Iraq resolutions were intended to deliver a strategic service to the Zionist entity. The paper goes on to say that many official Arab quarters have restated the excuses advanced by the United States and its allies regarding full and strict compliance with these resolutions. Even the Arab League secretary general has ruled that it is impermissible to effect an inter-Arab reconciliation before Iraq complies with all these resolutions, the paper notes.

BABIL asserts that everybody is well aware that these resolutions were meant to strip Iraq of its strategic weapons arsenal, which was designed to be used for legitimate self-defense, and to rob the Arabs of the mainstay of their military prowess, which could have been used to face the Zionist danger.

The paper urges the Arabs to act upon these facts. Likewise, the Arabs should not work for a reconciliation with the Zionist entity. It is our hope that this call by the Arab League was not prompted by a desire to absorb popular wrath, particularly in Egypt, the paper maintains.

U.S. Reportedly To Help Mediate Kurdish Fighting

NC2901174995 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1530 yesterday, Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], visited the Kurdistan National Council and met with the parliamentarians who are staging a sit-in there. Addressing the audience, Dr. Shalabi said U.S. Government officials had held a meeting at the U.S. State Department 10 days ago and decided to send a delegation led by (David Bates), director of North Gulf Affairs, as a representative of the U.S. National Security Council, to convey a message to the Kurdish leaders and the UINC. Dr. Shalabi denoted three important points in the message:

1. An immediate cease-fire.
2. U.S. support for the UINC in the role of a mediator to deal with the problems, monitor the cease-fire, separate the forces, and uphold law and order.
3. In the event no agreement is reached and fighting resumes, the United States will reconsider its participation in the enforcement of the no-fly zone over Kurdistan.

Dr. Shalabi said if agreement is reached between the two sides—the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and Kurdistan Democratic Party—the United States itself will observe the implementation of the agreement. He noted that the United States believes that the continuation of the fighting in Kurdistan not only harms the Kurdish people and Iraq, but also threatens U.S. interests.

Germany's Kinkel Sends Message to PUK's Talabani

NC2701191095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has received a message from German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. The German minister voiced his sorrow and regret for the ongoing clashes in the Kurdistan region. Minister Kinkel called for an immediate halt to all clashes and for the unity of the Kurdish forces for the sake of constructing the villages and towns of Kurdistan.

Two Iraqi Officials Reportedly Killed in Karkuk

NC2801170395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A reliable source in Karkuk has reported that on the night of 26-27 January, two Iraqi officials were killed by unidentified men. The body of one of them was found in a square in the Rahimawah quarter and the body of the other was found in the Shurijah area. The source said that next morning Iraqi forces surrounded the Rahimawah area and arrested more than 10 people.

Irbil Shelled in Renewed Intra-Kurdish Fighting

NC2901171495 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 29 (AFP)—Shells and rockets slammed into the key city of Irbil in northern Iraq on Sunday [29 January] in renewed fighting between rival Kurds which has killed about 10 people in the past few days, a Kurdish official said.

"Seven shells and rockets fired by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) fell on a residential area in Irbil's eastern suburbs," said Kosrat Rasul, a member of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Rasul, contacted by AFP in Cyprus by telephone, said there was no immediate toll from the bombardment which came after a week's respite.

However, he said fighting in Rawandoz east of Irbil left "around ten people dead from both sides" on Thursday and Friday [26 and 27 January].

The clashes came after a visit to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq by a joint Turkish-United States delegation, which gave KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani and PUK chief Jalal Talabani a warning from U.S. President Bill Clinton to stop the fighting.

Clinton said the violence threatened U.S.-led efforts to provide air cover to northern Iraq, in place since 1991 following a Kurdish uprising at the end of the Gulf war.

The KDP and PUK, which share control of the region in defiance of Baghdad, have clashed regularly since May in a bitter power struggle and over tax revenue. Up to 500 have died in the latest round of fighting since December 24, Kurdish sources say.

Rasul said the U.S. initiative was "positive," adding "our hopes still lie with political mediation by the Iraqi National Congress," a coalition of opposition groups.

"We are still at the crossroads," Rasul added. "The PUK wants peace but the KDP, encouraged by certain countries in the region, insists on continuing the fighting."

The KDP controls the governate of Dahuk which borders Turkey, containing the customs post of Ibrahim al-Khalil which is "essential for the finances" of the Kurds' self-appointed government, Rasul said.

The PUK is in control of Irbil and Al-Sulaymaniyah where 70 percent of Iraqi Kurds live, he said.

PUK chief Talabani has accused Turkey of supporting his KDP rivals. Another Kurdish source in Irbil charged Sunday that Iran was giving the KDP material and artillery support through the Kurdish Hizballah group.

Last Sunday Rasul said 10 people were killed and 30 wounded in shelling of Irbil suburbs. The KDP launched attempts to wrest the city from PUK control on January 14, despite a INC-brokered ceasefire on January 8.

Shiite Opposition Leader on Saddam's Weakness

NC2901181695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Jan 95

["Excerpts" on news conference by Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, with unidentified correspondents in Geneva; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Can you discuss Saddam's strength at home, and also the strength of the opposition?

[Al-Hakim] Saddam is suffering great weakness resulting from his profound isolation from the Iraqi people, from the main body of the Army, and also from the Republican Guards circles. He now enjoys only the support of the Special Guards stationed in Baghdad. The regime is also suffering from severe financial problems, and it is now trying to obtain money to strengthen its military machine. The regime is also losing control over internal security. Some regions, like the north and some areas in the south, are out of its control, especially at night. On the other hand, the opposition has a large military force in the north and in the south as well, including many political organizations among the tribes, intellectuals, (?Shiite) and Kurdish circles, plus some Sunni Arab circles.

[Correspondent] How long do you expect Saddam to remain in power?

[Al-Hakim] I think a real change will take place within a year if we implement the proposed plan. We are trying to turn 1995 into the year when the international community rises up to protect the Iraqi people.

[Correspondent] What do you think of the blockade, and what is your relationship with Iran?

[Al-Hakim] We think the blockade is greatly weakening the regime. But this punishment affects both the regime and the people. Therefore, we call on the United Nations to distinguish between the people and the regime by opening relief centers in areas outside the regime's control. This is the objective of our contacts with the international organizations. Concerning our relationship with Iran, it is a political relationship based on several things:

1. The independence of our will and movement.
2. Iran is our host.
3. A broad popular base of about 1 million Iraqis live in Iran.
4. Iraq and Iran share 1,400 km of heavily populated border.

We must benefit from these advantages. We also use other opportunities available in Syria, Kurdistan, and elsewhere.

[Correspondent] What kind of support do you receive from some Western countries, especially the United States?

[Al-Hakim] We have received no material support other than the information and statements given by the U.S. Administration. As for positions, no new political stands have been made.

[Correspondent] Do you not think that the proposed plan for change will collapse as a result of the fighting in Kurdistan? Have you discussed this with the Kurdish party leaders?

[Al-Hakim] I do not think the plan for change will collapse, because what is happening in Kurdistan is very limited, and the Kurdish people oppose the fighting. So far, we have sent two delegations to Kurdistan and achieved some successes, and we are continuing the process.

[Correspondent] Would ending the blockade help the Iraqi people?

[Al-Hakim] The Iraqi people believe that the cause of the trouble is the regime, not the blockade. However, the people are expecting the United Nations to find a mechanism to distinguish between them and the regime. For example, it can force the regime to implement Resolutions 706 and 712 as it did with Resolution 687.

Italian Commercial Delegation Visits Country

Arrives in Baghdad

JN2801093295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—An Italian commercial delegation representing 38 major Italian firms, led by Sergio Marini [name as transliterated], chairman of the Arab- Italian Chamber of Commerce, arrived in Baghdad today.

Sergio Marini told INA that the purpose of the visit is to study means to develop commercial and industrial links between the Italian firms and the economic sectors in Iraq, and to seek to restore and reactivate economic cooperation and trade links between Iraq and Italy.

He added that the visit will allow the delegation the opportunity to view closely the negative consequences resulting from the continued embargo and its effects on the Iraqi people's daily life as a result of the shortage in food and medicine, as well as the construction booms which Iraq is witnessing under the campaign of reconstruction and building.

Zuhayr 'Abd-al-Ghafur, president of the Iraqi chambers of commerce, met Sergio Marini and his delegation. The two sides discussed the commercial and economic relations and means to improve them, as well as the role that can be played by the representatives of Italian companies and Iraqi businessmen in this field.

Trade Minister Meets Delegation

JN2801124495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has received an Italian commercial delegation, headed by Sergio Marini [name as transliterated], head of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce.

They discussed economic and commercial cooperation between the Italian companies and the Iraqi economic sectors and the means to activate them in all fields.

The head and members of the Italian commercial delegation stressed that Italian companies working in the commercial, agricultural, and health fields are keen to establish close and advanced relations with Iraq and the private sector companies to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Sergio Marini, head of the Italian commercial delegation, has said that the Italian firms will do their best to encourage the Italian Government to break the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq.

The meeting was attended by the head of the union of Iraqi chambers of commerce.

Transport Official Meets Delegation

JN2901120495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—Transport and Communications Ministry Under Secretary Ibrahim Jamil 'Ali met here today with a delegation of Italian firms headed by Sergio Marini [name as transliterated], chairman of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce.

During the meeting they discussed the possible participation of Italian firms in the implementation of projects in Iraq, particularly in the areas of transport, communications, automotive industries, and spare parts production with a view to promoting Iraqi-Italian economic and trade ties.

For his part, Sergio Marini condemned the continued enforcement of the unfair Iraqi sanctions, which have claimed the lives of thousands of children, women, and elderly people due to food and medicine shortages.

Businessmen Discuss Cooperation

JN2901162095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—Several Iraqi industrialists from the private sector met today with a delegation of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce. They discussed the needs of Iraqi industries for industrial equipment.

The members of the delegation, who represent more than 35 Italian firms specialized in economic, trade, and industrial areas, voiced their readiness to cooperate with Iraqi businessmen and to meet Iraq's needs when the unjust blockade imposed on the country is lifted.

'Adnan al-Qudsi, head of the Iraqi Industries Union, met today with Sergio Marini [name as transliterated], chairman of the Arab- Italian Chamber of Commerce.

They also discussed ways of bolstering economic, trade, and industrial ties and expanding economic cooperation between the union and the Italian chambers of commerce. The meeting was attended by Talal Tal'at, the secretary general of the union.

Delegation Departs

JN3001093995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Sergio Marini [name as transliterated], chairman of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce, has described the continued sanctions on Iraq as a wrong done in flagrant violation of international laws, norms, and human rights.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency prior to his departure today, the Italian figure added that international organizations must do their best to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and address the acute food and medicine shortages they are experiencing, particularly among children, women, and the sick.

Sergio Marini asserted that he will relay to the Italian Government the truth regarding the Iraqi people's sufferings under the continued unfair sanctions so that it may do whatever it can at the UN Security Council to end this injustice.

Marini added: We came to Baghdad to express our feelings of amity, friendship, and affection for Iraq and its people, and also to enhance the friendly economic bilateral ties.

Rabin Outlines Policies, Beliefs to 'Inner Forum'

TA2901113495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jan 95 pp A1, A12

[Report by Yo'el Marcus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin views Islamic terror in the form of suicide attacks as a strategically substantial threat to Israel and as an obstacle to peace; he demands that Palestinian Authority [PA] chief Yasir 'Arafat fulfill his commitment to prevent the launching of terrorist activities from Gaza. This is part of the remarks and analyses made by Rabin at an inner forum over the weekend.

Although Rabin is against suspending the talks or presenting 'Arafat with an ultimatum, he believes a situation may evolve in which progress toward the next stages will be impossible as well as futile, unless we are certain that the personal safety of Israelis can be ensured.

The prime minister admits that this period is not easy for him and his government. The difficulty, he says, stems from the fact that we have reached a point where we have solved all the easy problems, and we are now moving on to the more difficult issues. It stems also from the rise of a new kind of terrorism, which sets the public against the continuation of the peace process.

The suicide attackers present a serious problem and are more menacing than any previous form of terrorism, Rabin says. No countermeasure is effective against a man who is ready to commit suicide, except for preventive steps and the destruction of the terrorists' infrastructure. The prime minister believes, therefore, that tackling terror is the key to the peace process. The problem as he sees it is to proceed without discontinuing the process, yet on the other hand, without rushing into anything before we are certain the Palestinians can eliminate the threat of terror from territories under their control.

Rabin rejects the charge that he is indecisive. What we have here, the prime minister says, is not indecisiveness, but a responsible attitude aiming to achieve security for Israel as stipulated in the Oslo accords.

The recent public opinion polls, while disagreeable, do not worry him. He did not take on his position in order to occupy a cabinet seat, Rabin said during this weekend. He pursues the goal of achieving personal security for the people and of ensuring that the peace process continues, and the polls will not dictate his course. We have to act with brains and common sense, Rabin told the inner forum.

The demand to suspend the talks is irresponsible, because it will have negative repercussions in the Arab world and in the international community's attitude toward Israel. Rabin made it clear, however, that certain demands should be presented to the PA as a basis for future negotiations. These demands should imply neither a threat nor an ultimatum; they reflect a desire to learn the lessons of the Gaza-Jericho experiment, and they will also be a test of the PA's ability to prevent anti-Israel terror from territories under its control. Before we go on, Rabin says, let them show what they can do in Gaza.

In Rabin's opinion, this is definitely a tough period, but we must show patience and resilience, and above all, we have to define the direction which we wish to pursue. Having instructed the security forces and granted the Shin Bet special permits to act against radical Islamic terror, Rabin demands that 'Arafat undertake more operations and invest a greater effort—the Israeli threat being a continued closure, rather than a termination of the negotiations.

No Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or Islamic Jihad activist will be released, the prime minister says. The delay in the previously planned release of prisoners, the nonactivation of the "safe passage," and the closure will continue as long as the government's demands are not met. Speaking with the inner circle, Rabin refrained from specifying what the government's demands are and in what manner they had been submitted. He said we had been unable to fully prevent suicide attacks from the West Bank ourselves, but we expect 'Arafat to at least make a serious effort and to show an 80-percent success.

Contrary to the public impression, the separation concept introduced by Rabin is not planned to be implemented at once. It is a long-term objective. In his opinion, such separation cannot be carried out in one day because both the Israeli and the Palestinian economies are not ready for that. He said that although we have brought in 60,000 foreign workers, our economy still needs the approximately 50,000 workers from the territories. The total annual income of the Palestinians working in Israel stands at about $300 million, which is more that the Palestinians have received from all the donor countries.

It is Rabin's view that economic adversity in the territories must be avoided. Both sides need time to get ready for physical separation. Rabin eventual total separation—but definitely not along the 1967 lines.

Rabin: Talks To Continue, Separation 'Only Solution'

TA3001114195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister said this morning that the closure imposed on Gaza will be lifted only after the Palestinian Authority proves that it can carry out its commitment to prevent acts of terror against Israel. At the same time, the peace talks will not be stopped and the government will continue to implement the Oslo agreements. Mr. Rabin stressed that the political echelons have imposed no restrictions on the war against terror and made it clear that terrorists who murdered Israelis will not be released.

The prime minister further said that the principle of separation is the only solution for the conflict with the Palestinians and that the first step is to sever the economic interdependence between the two nations. We will reduce the number of Gazans in Israel, even if this means that an additional 20,000 foreign laborers will come work here, the prime minister said, addressing students at the Rene Cassin High School in Jerusalem.

Cabinet Discusses Separation, Security Situation

TA2901121495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We open by going over to the Prime Minister's Office, where the cabinet is discussing the war on terror, the idea of separation, and the peace process in general. As we hear now from our reporter at the cabinet office, David Ze'ev, Prime Minister Rabin says terrorism has become a strategic danger and a threat to the peace process.

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says terrorism is threatening the peace process and that the process is at a crossroads. According to a government official, the prime minister's remarks drew an angry response from Meretz's Science and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni. Aloni said the prime minister's rhetoric, as she put it, implies that he is pulling out of the process.

Rabin also said he is pessimistic about the negotiations with Syria. He confirmed that there has been a delay in the return of the Syrian ambassador to Washington, Walid al-Mu'allim, to the American capital, delaying the resumption of the negotiations with Israel. The prime minister said the delay in the ambassador's return raises concern over the future of the negotiations.

Back on the Palestinian issue, despite the Aloni criticism, there was widespread support for maintaining strict security measures. Labor's Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said the negotiations should take place with the closure of the territories in effect. The dovish cabinet minister said all of the security establishment says the closure cuts down on the ability to carry out terrorist attacks, and therefore it should stay in place despite the difficulties it causes the Palestinians.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal put out a statement saying his plan for separation between Judaea and Samaria and Israel involves more police and border police in the border areas, and other means, including technological—as he put it—to prevent the entry of Palestinians into Israel. Shahal told the cabinet he has been working on the plan for a year and a half. The police minister said the police have been training dogs for various purposes, including locating explosives. Shahal said that criticism in the Knesset prevented the police from moving ahead in the past, but that the dogs will be brought in during the coming days at roadblocks between the territories and Israel. A senior aide to the police minister said the prime minister and the security establishment gave their okay to deploying the dogs at their weekly meeting this past Friday. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 29 January carries a report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz on the cabinet session, adding: "During today's cabinet session, which ended a short time ago, the ministers received the impression that the closure will continue for approximately one more week. No committees were set up to deal with the separation issue, not an experts committee nor a ministerial committee. The prime minister wants Finance Minister Shohat to oversee the discussions on the economic aspects of separation, and Police Minister Shahal to oversee discussions on its security aspects."]

Cabinet Extends Closure

TA2901170295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he would not want to be responsible for a stop to the peace process but that the process with the Palestinians cannot continue to be implemented without additional security measures. The cabinet put out a statement after its weekly meeting warning the Palestinian Authority [PA] that the closure over the Gaza Strip will remain in effect until the Palestinians live up to their security commitments. Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat are to head teams to examine cutting off the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from Israel itself. They are to report back within a month. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] The government decided the closure over Judaea and Samaria will, at this point, last another week until the next Sunday cabinet meeting. But in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinians bear internal security responsibility, the cabinet statement says just when Palestinian workers will be able to return to their jobs will be contingent upon the PLO and the PA living up to their agreements with Israel. Israel also stepped up the pressure on the Palestinians by extending from last week the freeze on talks toward releasing Palestinian prisoners and the safe passage agreement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remains on hold. There was widespread support in the cabinet for maintaining the closure order, from among others, dovish Labor Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am in support of what he called a permanent closure.

[Bar'am] I think the permanent closure on the territories is the only possibility to extend the peace process. We have to do it under these conditions and I think the majority of the members in the government agree with the idea.

[Ze'ev] The cabinet approved bringing in 6,000 foreign workers in construction and agriculture to fill the gap. With evidence that Israeli employers are continuing to smuggle in Palestinian workers, the prime minister said he is asking the attorney general to look into the possibility of imprisoning those employers.

And on separation: Prime Minister Rabin has appointed Police Minister Moshe Shahal to head a team on the internal security details and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to examine the economic ramifications. Meretz Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said after the cabinet meeting: with all this preoccupation with security, a further delay in the negotiations with the Palestinians may be inevitable.

[Tzaban] The difficulties that are created because of the influence of the terrorist activities is making this slowdown of the process whether we like it or not.

[Ze'ev] In addition to the cabinet deliberations, further details on the separation process are to be taken up in the inner security cabinet. [end recording]

Jordan Faulted for 'Tough' Stand at Talks

TA3001112895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Jan 95 p 18

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, senior Israeli political sources criticized the "tough" position taken by Jordan in the negotiations on normalization.

The sources say the Jordanians are presenting "impossible" positions. In the trade agreement negotiations, for example, Jordan is demanding free exports to Israel regardless of the country of origin of the goods involved. In the aviation negotiations, Jordan is refusing to recognize altitude limitations stemming from Israel Air Force training requirements.

The Americans have been advised of Israel's position. Washington is in the midst of "reevaluating" the U.S. position in view of the stalemate in the peace talks. Jerusalem sources believe the Americans will decide to support Israel and will take a firm stand toward Syria, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Egypt.

Likud's Qatzav: U.S. Willling To Strengthen Rabin

TA3001113795 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Jan 95 p 8

[Report by ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, has addressed a letter to the U.S. Embassy in Israel in which he writes that if the United States decides to intervene in Israel's internal affairs, the Israeli public will scornfully reject this attempt.

Qatzav says that the Likud firmly rejects reports of a U.S. willingness to intervene in order to strengthen Rabin. Qatzav says the United States has no business intervening in Israel's internal affairs.

Shin Bet Requests New Measures To Fight Terror

TA2701115495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jan 95 p 9

[Article by Steve Rodan]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Some security sources acknowledge that the government as well as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] command made several mistakes in assessing 'Arafat. The biggest one was that he would fight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorism to hasten Israeli withdrawal from the territories.

Instead, the sources say, 'Arafat has refused to crack down on Islamic terrorists and has quietly encouraged them. The Palestinian Authority [PA] head has adopted the rhetoric of the Islamic opposition, repeatedly terming the Israel-PLO accord as the two-year truce between Muhammad and the tribe of Quraysh nearly 1,300 years ago which led to the annihilation of that non-Moslem community.

Senior GSS [General Security Service—the Shin Bet] officials, including its head, have concluded that 'Arafat regards Hamas and Islamic Jihad as essential for the Palestinians to achieve Israeli concessions that the PLO could not get solely through negotiations.

The sources say they are convinced that Islamic terrorists ensure their attacks are launched from Judaea and Samaria rather than directly from Gaza, to prevent having 'Arafat being directly blamed. Indeed, GSS officials say, 'Arafat's agents have several times blocked Islamic squads from staging attacks from Gaza, although he has not prosecuted any of the suspected terrorists.

"Our biggest mistake was thinking 'Arafat had the power and will to control his people," Agmon, the former IDF adviser on the intifada, said.

Security officials say their biggest concern is the projected IDF withdrawal from Arab towns and villages. Senior security sources warn that the army redeployment will lead to an immediate and dramatic increase in terrorism. Hamas and Islamic Jihad will have dozens of towns and villages they can use as havens after they strike at Israeli targets.

Israeli retaliation could be negotiated under an agreement with the PLO, the sources say. But it would lead to an erosion of cooperation with PA authorities. It might serve as a further impetus for Palestinian terrorism.

Most important, an IDF redeployment is expected to result in heightened cooperation between Fatah and Hamas. That cooperation began immediately after the Israel-PLO agreement was signed in 1993. An indictment presented last week in the military court in Nablus against Mu'asim Sabri Muqadis, accused of assisting the suicide bomber in the explosion of bus No. 5, which killed 22 people, said Fatah activists in Nabulus sold Kalashnikov rifles to Hamas militants for 4,000 dinars, about $5,300.

One security source says IDF redeployment will lead to increased tension with the Palestinian Police. 'Arafat is asking for thousands more officers, and many of those are expected to be formally recruited among Fatah and Hamas militants.

Unlike the Palestine Liberation Army soldiers who now comprise the bulk of the police force, the Fatah and Hamas people expected to be recruited are popular among Palestinians, are familiar among Palestinians, are familiar with the territories, and have a score to settle with Israel.

"Every change will be more difficult both for intelligence- gathering as well as operation," Agmon said. "We are fighting a movement that is deeply embedded in the population."

Security sources say they want approval of a comprehensive package of measures to fight terror. These include:

- — the right of Israeli forces to enter any areas of Judaea and Samaria taken over by the PA;
- — rejecting the idea of joint patrols in Judaea and Samaria as a means of protecting Israelis;
- — control of the territories' electricity grid and water system, as well as all major roads;
- — basing any redeployment on a line the IDF and GSS assess can be secured;
- — a merciless campaign to eliminate terrorist leaders;
- — reestablishing a network of informers;
- — reorganization of the security services to allow for more security agents to be responsible for intelligence-gathering in the territories. This might include coordination between the GSS, the Mosad and IDF intelligence. Currently, the GSS, with fewer than 100 agents, is responsible for the territories.

Re'uven Hazaq, a former GSS senior official, acknowledges that this is a formidable task. Recruiting agents among the poorly paid Palestinian policemen might be easy. The challenge, however, is infiltrating Islamic terrorist cells after IDF redeployment when today, under Israeli rule of the territories, they appear beyond the grasp of the security services.

The fight against terrorism, Hazaq noted, has been aided by the total dependence of Palestinians on Israeli jobs, licenses and visas, something that will largely disappear once 'Arafat extends his rule over Judaea and Samaria.

"If I were the GSS head, I wouldn't be able to sleep at night," Ha

Settlers, Villagers Clash at Trailer Site

TA2801125795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dozens of villagers from (Kisan), accompanied by Israeli members of Gush Shalom [Peace Bloc], torched two of the three structures settlers from Ma'ale 'Amos had placed near their settlement in the 'Etzyon Bloc two days ago. The Judaea Region Police arrested three villagers from (Kisan) on suspicion of involvement in the torching.

Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that, this morning, settlers from Ma'ale 'Amos noticed people who had come to damage mobile homes they had placed at the site. The settlers fired several warning shots in the air. There were no casualties. Army and police forces arrived at the scene and separated the settlers and the Palestinians. The area is now quiet.

Wounded Soldiers Die, Raising Bet Lid Death Toll

Soldier Dies; Toll Rises to 20

TA2701121895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Private Yaniv Weiser, an 18-year-old IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier from Giv'atayim, has died at Me'ir Hospital in Kefar Sava of the wounds he sustained in the Bet Lid bombing on Sunday [22 January]. The funeral arrangements will be announced later on. Upon his death, the death toll in the bombing has risen to 20.

Officer's Death Raises Toll to 21

TA2801122595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant Eyal Moshe Levi, a 21-year- old IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer from Ashdod, who was critically injured in the Bet Lid terrorist bombing, died of his injuries this morning at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital. The date of his funeral will be announced. The death of Lt. Eyal Moshe Levi raises the death toll in the bombing to 21.

Sharon: Halt Peace Talks, Take Other Measures

TA2701114695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jan 95 p 7

[Commentary by Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The house of cards has collapsed. Contrary to the government's promises, the political solution hasn't brought an end to terrorism.

The public no longer accepts that the more entrenched peace becomes, the more terrorism will intensify. Nor does it buy the story of Palestinians who are "enemies and murderers of peace." It sees only the graves of Israeli soldiers and civilians. Somehow, Palestinian supporters of the process stay unharmed by these "enemies of peace."

Which is why the government needs a new panacea: separation. "You are a different entity—religiously, nationally, politically; we want separation from you," said the prime minister to the Palestinians. And he added, "Separation, but not back at the Green Line; our security border will be at the Jordan."

What does the premier mean when he talks of separation? A separation between the peoples? Territorial separation? Will fences separate Kefar Sava from Qalqilyah? Tulkarm from Netanya, Ramat Rahel from Bethlehem? Will there be fence between the city of David and Abu-Dis? Does he intend to separate all Jews and Palestinians?

And what will be the future of the Palestinian population in Israel which today demands "cultural autonomy" and recognition of the Palestinians as a national minority—a demand which skirts the realm of self-determination?

Palestinian Israelis are already participating in riots and attacking Israeli soldiers and policemen with the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria.

The ties of the Islamic movement in Israel with Hamas are getting stronger. Growing are the Arab population's demands that Israel cease being a Jewish state as defined in the Declaration of Independence and become "a state of all its citizens."

There are calls to change the flag and the anthem. The logic of separation dictates that we shall have to build fences between Upper Nazareth and Nazareth, 'Akko and Old 'Akko, Rosh Ha'ayin and Kafr Qasim, Ramat Hakovesh and al-Tira, the al-'Ajami Quarter and the rest of Yafo.

And what will the premier do in Jerusalem—divide the city? Or "separate" it by closing off roads from Judaea and Samaria? Perhaps he wants to gain a year's respite to finish building the fence.

The whole nation will wait. There will be hope. And it will be possible to tell the Jews why they are still being killed: "We haven't finished building the fence yet." And when it is finished and terrorism continues, another excuse will be found. There is no limit to the cynicism, no end to the deception.

It is taking a year to construct the external fence around the Gaza Strip, 54 kilometers long. The Palestinians have started sabotaging it even as it is being built. A traveler along the fence can see many kilometers in which the iron posts, thousands of them, have been stolen. The electronic systems are sabotaged at night. Even stolen vehicles from Israel are smuggled through.

The fence system in the north is 100 kilometers long. But without the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the security belt, the battles would have raged in the Galilee.

The length of the Green Line before the Six Day War was 309 kilometers. We were never able to seal it. The new separation line will be much longer. Additional fences will have to be built in the Jordan Valley and around the settlement blocks. The system's length will be 500 kilometers.

Won't these fences be sabotaged? Won't they be penetrated? Where will the forces to secure this system come from? From what budgets? It is difficult to fathom such silliness.

This is what must be done:

—First, the process must be stopped. This experiment has failed. Another way to peace must be found.

—The right to execute preemptive strikes and hot pursuit must be regained. It is impossible to fight terror from behind fences.

—Owing to the severe deterioration, a comprehensive operation in Gaza and in Judaea and Samaria must be launched now to detain wanted terrorists, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad leaders, inciters and recruiters of suicide bombers. The thousands of weapons and explosives now in the field must be collected. If the Palestinian Police declines to participate, it should be confined to its bases until the operation ends.

—The families of the suicide bombers should be expelled from the country, and we should make it clear that this will continue in the future. It may be the most effective deterrent.

—We must stop weapons and explosives being smuggled to Gaza and the Sinai by widening the barrier in Rafah and the sea.

—Vehicles must not enter Israel from Gaza even if the closure is lifted. The railway line from the Erez checkpoint to the center of the country must be reactivated to transport workers.

—The persecution of Palestinians who have helped us must be prevented by the imposition of severe penalties. Otherwise, our intelligence sources will dry up.

—The offensive against terrorism must be free of extraneous considerations.

The security apparatus has collapsed because it is serving misguided policies. Regardless of political differences, we must rehabilitate our security. A lengthy, strenuous effort can still stop the deterioration and return us to being what we were.

Editorial: U.S. Should Not Reject Iraq as Peace Partner

TA2901141495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Jan 95 p

[Editorial: "What Dennis Ross Rejects"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dennis Ross, Secretary of State Warren Christopher's special assistant who heads the

American peace-talks team, has been contributing his diplomatic skill and considerable experience to advancing the negotiations with Syria. Having had a similar position in the Bush-Baker administration, Ross probably knows more about the personalities involved than virtually anyone.

Interviewed by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir of Israel Television on Friday [27 January], he gave all the answers one expects from an administration official. Although reluctant to intervene in Israel's domestic politics, he endorsed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with the kind of extravagant praise Washington reserves for foreign leaders who follow the administration's suggested policies. Achieving "comprehensive peace" in the Middle East—Hafiz al-Asad's code words for total Israeli withdrawal, now adopted by the administration—is a primary goal in Washington. And as long as Rabin seems to be going in the right direction to achieve it, he'll be a favorite of the White House and State Department.

If there was anything startling in the interview, it was Ross's answer to the last question. Mentioning that Rabin wanted to include Iraq as a participant in the "comprehensive peace," Ahime'ir wanted to know what Ross thought of the idea. It is an eminently reasonable question: if the region is to have a truly comprehensive peace, the Iraqis cannot be ignored.

The Arab states seem to agree. After the recent Alexandria summit, Egypt's Husni Mubarak, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, and Syrian dictator Hafiz al-Asad announced in an official communique they had discussed "how to integrate Iraq into the Arab camp to confront Israel." Clearly, leaving Iraq out of the talks would make a travesty of the hope for lasting peace.

True, despite Iraqi overtures to Israel, its dictator Saddam Husayn marked the fourth anniversary of the "Mother of all Wars" by stating "Iraq has the right to ask which Arab country will launch the 40th missile against Israel."

But, as both Washington and Jerusalem seem to agree, peace is made with enemies. It was not too long ago that today's peace partner Yasir 'Arafat bragged that he would arrive in Jerusalem astride an Iraqi missile.

Moreover, Iraq is not a minor power like Jordan; it must be reckoned with. After suppressing a rebellion in the south by killing 50,000 Shi'ites—gullible peasants who took then-president George Bush's word seriously and mutinied against Saddam expecting American help—the regime is again fully in control of the country. The Shi'ite imams have reconciled with Baghdad, and Saddam has not only been paying their salaries on time but repairing the mosques of Karbala, known as the third holiest place in Islam.

Moreover, as if to mock all the Western and Israeli experts who supported Saddam against Iran in the 1980s in the assumption he was the secular force that could stop the wave of Islamic fundamentalism, the Iraqi dictator has turned into a strict Islamic ruler. He has shut down Baghdad's night clubs, forbidden women to appear with makeup in public, and instructed the newspapers to support these and similar restrictions designed "to combat the country's moral deterioration."

Needless to say, Saddam's newly acquired concept of religious morality does not cover non-conventional warfare. Iraq continues to develop chemical and biological warfare capabilities—areas in which no inspection can be fully exhaustive—and experts believe that if Saddam is unable to produce nuclear weapons in the near future, he will have no trouble buying them.

There is little doubt that despite the hardships suffered by Iraqis as a result of the sanctions, Iraq will soon return to its past power. France has already resumed diplomatic relations with Baghdad, and it is doubtful that the US and Britain, the last holdouts for continued international sanctions, will be able to resist the ever increasing pressure from the Europeans, Russia, and China to remove the blockade.

Perhaps the most persuasive argument against sanctions is not that Iraq has implemented most of the UN resolutions, including the recognition of Kuwait's borders. It is that the former members of the anti-Saddam coalition have reached the startling conclusion that if he is overthrown, his successor will not be Thomas Jefferson.

That is why it was strange to hear Ross's reply to Ahime'ir's question. He said, "No, I don't think Saddam should join the process. He is not a man one can trust." Coming from one of the leading American architects of the current peace process, the statement can only mean that 'Arafat and al-Asad are men Washington and Israel can trust, despite the striking similarities between them and the Iraqi dictator. Surely Ross must know that in two areas Saddam has distinguished himself most—committing atrocities and violating contracts—both 'Arafat and al-Asad can give him stiff competition. Neither has kept a single agreement, and each has committed some of the most heinous crimes of the post-World War II years.

For some Israelis, the unease created by this remark is exacerbated by the memory of the patronizing lectures about Saddam delivered by such friends of Israel as Republican Senator Robert Dole and Democrat Howard Metzenbaum in the spring of 1990. Saddam Husayn, they said, is a Western-oriented, pragmatic, and realistic Arab leader who wants peace with Israel. Only an obdurate, intransigent government would refuse to negotiate with him, they sternly added. It would be unforgivable, they said, if Israel missed this historic window of opportunity for peace.

IDF Begins Border Demarcation in 'Arava Region

TA2901191695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has started to demarcate the new border between Israel and Jordan in the 'Arava. Under the peace accord, in the coming months Israel will transfer to Jordan the territories taken from it. Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that some 4,000 sq km will be returned to Jordan, most in the 'Arava but some also in the Bet She'an Valley. The IDF will, however, continue to maintain a regular security system along the border with Jordan.

Government Cancels Arms Purchases From France

TA2901165595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jan 95 p A7

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Sharon Sade]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel decided in early January to cancel a $8.5-million arms deal with France, even though the discussions were at a very advanced stage and the contract was on the verge of being signed.

Last month, French Defense Minister Francois Leotard sent a letter to Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, asking where the deal stood and why decisions on the issue were being held up, since several months earlier the French understood that Israel was interested in equipping itself with these weapons.

Leotard noted in his letter that after his visit to Israel in March 1994, he had handed down clear instructions to advance defense ties and tighten strategic cooperation with Israel. He voiced surprise that Israel, which also expressed a readiness to tighten relations with France, was wavering in approving the deal, although it was at an advanced stage.

In response, the French minister was told that the deal was canceled following a change in the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] objectives. Israel did not think the decision to cancel the arms deal would damage relations between the two countries.

Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri visited France last week and met with the director general of the French Defense Ministry Henri Konaz [name as transliterated]. 'Ivri discussed tightening security and strategic ties. He was accompanied by David Shoval, head of the Defense Ministry's Aid and Export Department.

Since Leotard's visit, defense cooperation between the two states has expanded. The French are interested in procuring Hunter UAV's [unmanned aerial vehicle] manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industries. They finalized deals to the tune of millions of dollars for Elta-made early warning systems for transport planes, mine detection systems Ramta and Ordan, and flight simulators helicopters. The defense minister's media adviser 'Oded Ben-'Ami refused to comment on the report.

Poll: Netanyahu Favored Over Rabin in Election

TA2701113295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jan 95 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Mutagim Market and Public Opinion Research Institute: "Netanyahu Scores All-Time Record Lead After the Bet Lid Junction Terrorist Attack"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Question] Were elections held today, who would you vote for, Yitzhaq Rabin or Binyamin Netanyahu?

[Answer] Netanyahu—50 percent; Rabin—28 percent; neither—10 percent; refused to answer—5 percent; do not know who they would vote for—7 percent.

The poll was conducted by Mutagim on 24 January among 501 respondents, who constitute a national representative sample of the adult Jewish population. The margin of error is 4.5 percent.

Poll Views Public on Rabin Speech, Peace Moves

TA2701115795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jan 95 p 1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the direction of Dr. Mina Tzemah; all figures given in percentages]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Question] Did Rabin's address to the nation aired on television last week improve your sense of personal security?
[Answer] 10—improved; 61—did not improve; 19—decreased the sense of security; 10—no reply.

[Question] Should the peace process with the Palestinians be halted?
[Answer] 51—it should be halted; 46—it should not be halted; 3—no reply.

[Question] Is it possible to bring about a separation between Israel and the territories?
[Answer] 64—it is possible; 33—it is impossible; 3—no reply.

[Question] Did President Weizman do the right thing when he publicly stated his opinion regarding the peace process following the Bet Lid attack?
[Answer] 71—he did the right thing; 27—he did not do the right thing; 2—no reply.

[Question] Should a national unity government be established?
[Answer] 54—it should; 44—it should not; 2—no reply.

The poll, conducted last Tuesday and Wednesday, was made from among 501 interviewees who constitute a representative sample of the entire adult population of the country. Maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Meretz Faction Demands Vacant SHAS Ministry

TA2701150495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Meretz faction is demanding that one of its ministers be appointed head of either the Interior or the Religious Ministry if the prime minister decides to man these portfolios.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Knesset Member Ran Kohen, chairman of the Meretz faction, has asked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to bring the negotiations with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] to a rapid conclusion. Kohen said that if SHAS does not join the coalition, Meretz should be given one of the ministries in order to maintain an equitable division of cabinet portfolios.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reported this morning that Mr. Rabin will meet with SHAS leaders next week in order to clearly determine whether they intend to join the government.

SHAS Reportedly To Return to Coalition

TA3001113095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, leader of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], may inform Prime Minister Rabin about his decision regarding SHAS' return to the coalition and the government later this week.

Rabin met with Knesset Member Arye Der'i yesterday and demanded an answer on this issue in the near future.

SHAS sources say Rabbi Yosef has already decided in favor of SHAS' return to the government, adding that MK's Moshe Maya and Arye Gamli'el may be appointed ministers as early as next week. Rabbi Yosef's official clarification on this issue, however, is still awaited.

Rabin and Der'i discussed, among other things, issues related to the government's policy on construction in the territories.

U.S. Official's Meetings, Comments Reviewed

JN2901095895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 95 p 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Amy Henderson]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East Robert Pelletreau on Saturday [28 January] stressed that despite the changes in Congress, the Clinton administration remains committed to meeting Jordan's economic and security needs in the "peace era."

Mr. Pelletreau met Saturday with His Majesty King Husayn to discuss the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process and bilateral relations. The talks also covered "how to improve and strengthen our cooperation in ways that the Jordanian people could see and appreciate," Mr. Pelletreau told Jordan Television.

The U.S. official, who also met with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti Saturday, was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as pledging U.S. support to Jordan through debt write-offs and the encouragement of American private sector investment in regional development.

Washington last year agreed to write off $702 million of Jordan's official debts over a three-year period. In addition to debt forgiveness agreed on last September, President Clinton told a joint session of Jordanian Parliament on the day of the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace accord that the U.S. would work with Jordan to meet its "legitimate defence requirements."

Thus far, roughly one-third of Jordan's debt to the U.S. was wiped off the books in 1994, and should be completely erased by 1997. However, Jordan still owes the U.S. $300 million more in debts that are not eligible for write-offs. On top of this remaining debt, Jordan still shoulders $5.5 billion in total debt to a number of other countries. The U.S. has lobbied its allies to follow suit with debt forgiveness, but the effort so far has been largely unsuccessful.

Jordan in September submitted a request for $25 billion in aid grants over the next 10 years in addition to a request for military equipment, including three to four squadrons of F-16 fighters, approximately 200 M1-A2 main battle tanks, around 500 Bradley armored fighting vehicles and a significant amount of support and ammunition. No military or financial aid has been forthcoming from the request.

Mr. Pelletreau said he was not yet ready to discuss the September request but, through various programmes, he hoped to see U.S.- Jordanian cooperation grow, and to see "our country do more here."

Asked if the U.S. intends to abide by its commitment to providing military aid to the kingdom, Mr. Pelletreau said that "we do intend to increase our assistance in this area although to what extent is not known."

"We recognise the importance of Jordan feeling the benefits of peace," he told journalists at a press conference at the American embassy. But he would not elaborate on the amount of aid that has been proposed to Congress thus far. It is his view that the best way to follow up on U.S. promises is to forgive Jordanian debt.

"We must continue on the debt forgiveness track," he said, "and we are encouraging other holders of Jordanian debt to adopt a similar process."

Mr. Pelletreau indicated the administration may be facing negative responses from a conservative Republican Congress. Congressional elections last November sent "sharp messages" to the government when a Republican majority was voted into Congress, he said.

"We will have to work out new relationships with Congress and committees," he said. "Our intention is to develop maximum bipartisanship on foreign policy, and my feeling is that on Middle East peace, there is broad bipartisan support."

Petra reported that during his meeting with Mr. Pelletreau, King Husayn reiterated his willingness to use his new relations with Israel to advance negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process.

"Jordan is committed to supporting any efforts that would lead to a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region," the King was quoted as saying.

During his current trip to the Middle East, Mr. Pelletreau visited Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Egypt to discuss foreign policy priorities which included helping parties reach just and comprehensive peace, aiding security in the Gulf region, securing U.S. access to energy resources vital to the U.S. economy and helping reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

The U.S. official said he discussed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who has said that Egypt will oppose signing the treaty which is up for renewal in April if Israel does not sign. The treaty requires 85 of the 168 original signatories to remain effective, binding all original signatories to the treaty.

Mr. Pelletreau said the U.S. hopes that an many governments as possible "will be able to speak in favour of the treaty,"

"We are talking about it in a serious and quiet way," he said, but ultimately it is a sovereign decision for each country.

Jordanian officials quoted by Reuters said Mr. Pelletreau discussed with al-Sharif Zayd obstacles in advancing the peace process and bilateral relations.

"Jordan stressed its concern with lack of tangible advance on the Syrian track, a prerequisite to continued progress towards comprehensive Middle East peace," one official said.

Petra said the prime minister expressed Amman's concern "to attain comprehensive and just peace which guarantees the restoration of legitimate rights of the countries of the region."

"Comprehensive peace will also ensure security and stability, a basic foundation to achieve economic progress for the countries of the region," Petra quoted al-Sharif Zayd as saying.

Mr. Pelletreau earlier met Foreign Minister al-Kabariti, who also raised concern about progress so far in "implementing peace accords with the Palestinians and other Arab tracks," officials said.

Mr. Pelletreau was quoted as saying that both Jordan and Israel were working "in good intentions to implement their own peace treaty" adding that U.S. policy also aimed at a comprehensive peace between the parties in peace talks.

NPT Position To Be Decided After Arab League Talks

JN2501120195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan supports the drive to have Israel sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) but has not yet decided whether it will withdraw from the accord if Israel refuses to join it, a senior Jordanian official said Tuesday [24 January].

The Kingdom's ambassador to the United Nations, 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, told the Jordan Times the Kingdom's position would be decided after the Arab League Foreign Ministers' Council takes a decision on the treaty in March.

He said Jordan's position will "materialise" within the positions of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement, which are similar in all but the Arabs' push to have Israel sign the treaty.

Mr. Abu-'Awdah said the Arab League has entrusted a technical committee with studying the treaty and marking recommendations to the Foreign Ministers' Council.

The ambassador said Jordan believes Israel's accession to the NPT will support the Arab-Israeli peace process and will eventually lead to a goal supported by Israel which is creating a nuclear-arms-free zone in the Middle East.

He noted that the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israeli peace treaty commits the two sides to work jointly towards the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction.

Article 7 of the treaty says the two sides will work towards "the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction, both conventional and non-conventional, in the context of a comprehensive, lasting and stable peace, characterised by the renunciation of the use of force, reconciliation and good will."

Mr. Abu-'Awdah said the Kingdom, which signed the NPT in 1968 and sent the ratification documents to the U.N. in 1970, has been consistent in demanding that the Jewish state sign it as demonstrated by its voting record in the U.N.

Israel, which, Western experts believe, has about 200 nuclear warheads, has consistently refused to sign the NPT and has never acknowledged possessing nuclear weapons.

Egypt, a key player in the Arab League, has said it would not sign the NPT unless the Jewish state joins it or commits itself to doing so in the future. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said Egypt will not budge on these demands.

The NPT is to be renewed in a meeting of the 169 signatories in New York in April and the U.S. is pushing to have the treaty renewed indefinitely.

Mr. Abu-'Awdah said while countries of the North support the U.S. view, the South is considering the options of having the treaty renewed for either a definite period at the end of which it will be reviewed.

He said countries of the South want to have the treaty include provisions which were missed when it was first made. Among these are a prohibition on nuclear tests, commitments against the use of nuclear weapons and permission for the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

News reports quoted an unnamed U.S. official as saying his country is certain it will have the 85 majority vote needed for indefinite extension of the treaty while Third World countries are reportedly worried the U.S. will be able to orchestrate the rules of the voting to achieve its goal.

Article 10 of the treaty stipulates that countries which have signed the treaty are bound by the decision of the majority of the signatories. That would mean Egypt, which has signed the treaty, will be committed to it even if it does not sign it in April.

Israeli press reports said Tuesday that the U.S. has informed Egypt of a possible compromise that would allow it not to sign the treaty but also not to push Arab and Third World countries towards the same course of action.

Government Wins Vote of Confidence 54-22

JN2901161195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1507 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir has won the House of

Representatives' confidence. The result was 54 votes in favor, 22 votes against, one abstention, and two deputies were absent.

Party Delegation Visit to Damascus Causes Dissension

NC3001090195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Report by 'Adil Muhammad in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit to Syria by a Jordanian delegation of representatives from seven licensed Jordanian parties in addition to independent political figures was an event that party observers consider dangerous. They feel it opens the door to many interpretations and unforeseen developments. The repercussions of this visit go beyond the mere desire of these parties to foster inter-Arab relations to confront the level of developments.

The Voice of the Oppressed correspondent in Amman [as heard] has learned that the visit by the seven Jordanian parties that oppose the Jordanian-Zionist peace treaty took place in response to an invitation by the National Progressive Front in Syria and its secretary general Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, based on a previous request by the Higher Jordanian Party Coordination Committee. This request was met with great enthusiasm and even greater desire from the Syrian leadership, which offered all the necessary facilities for this visit, including the use of all the media to publicize reports that serve and strengthen the Syrian stance on negotiations with the Zionist entity.

As for Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood, or its party the Islamic Action Party, the stance was not as clear or as defined as its stances are known to be. It stood in the middle: Members did not go to Damascus, but they did not reject the invitation.

The radio's correspondent in Amman [as heard] has learned that there are various views among the 11 parties that oppose the peace process with the Zionist entity as to the reasons the Muslim Brotherhood did not travel to Syria. One opinion is that their stance stems from their concern not to break the contract among the 11 parties. The other opinion is that the Muslim Brotherhood's stance stems from their being pressured by their new ally, the Pan- Arab Action Front Party [as heard], which fully rejects the visit and is close to Iraq. There are reports that they coordinate through negotiations with Jordanian Government departments, which some informed political sources have noted have expressed reservations about this visit. The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has never tended toward arousing government anger against itself.

In light of the tension between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Jordanian Government in past months, the Muslim Brotherhood preferred not to burn all its bridges, but to preserve some of the remaining cordiality in this relationship, particularly after signs of some detente emerged recently. Prince Hasan met some of the Brotherhood recently and al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir invited them to join his government, which he formed recently. But this does not stop conflict arising in the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood over the issue of the visit, between the hawks, who strongly support the visit, and the doves, who oppose it. The focal point of the visit is the Jordanian Government's stance on it. To be more specific, will there be a negative stance toward these seven parties after they return to Jordan?

Observers and news analysts believe the Jordanian Government is determined to take measures against these seven parties, which could restrain their activities and make them feel guilty. Among these measures the Jordanian Government could ask them to present their full detailed budgets, according to the Jordanian Parties' Law. Party officials expect this visit to have negative effects on the contract among the 11 parties after four of these parties boycotted the visit. These parties are: The Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, and the Islamic Action Party.

The parties the representatives of which went to Damascus are: (The Popular Union Party, Hashd), the (Constitutional Front), the (Democratic Socialist Party), the Communist Party of Jordan, and the (Progressive Ba'th Party), which is sponsoring the visit, in addition to independent political figures and former deputies who are united by their rejection of reconciliation with the Zionist entity.

Government, Party Officials React to U.S. Bank Move

Defense Minister: U.S. Claims 'Big Lie'

NC2701181195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, 27 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul described U.S. allegations that Lebanese figures and forces have savings and funds in U.S. banks as a big lie and an attempt to defame and harm certain symbols and figures.

In radio statements he made today, he called for national unity to confront the Israeli schemes that are targeting the Lebanese entity and establishments and warned of an escalation in the military situation and of continued Israeli aggression against Lebanese territories.

He added that Israel is a state built on aggression and it continues with this aggression whenever it is hit by anything anywhere.

In other news, Israeli warships cruised off the southern Lebanese coast and the city of Tyre today. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Urges Anti-U.S. Sanctions

LD2701173195 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Jan. 27, (IRNA)—Leading Lebanese Alim al-'Allamah Sa'id Mohammad Husayn Fadlallah said in his Friday sermons at the Imam Reza mosque here today that the recent decision of U.S. President Bill Clinton to freeze the assets of Muslim organizations and Muslim persons in the U.S. banks is merely a propaganda show.

He said most of the people whose names are in the list of frozen assets at the U.S. banks have pointed out that they do not have money in any U.S. bank.

Fadlallah called on Muslim governments to adopt sanctions against trade with the United States.

Nasrallah: U.S. Bias in Action

NC2801081395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the [word indistinct] of Hizballah, has expressed his opinion that the resistance in the south [word indistinct] of the people and that the road of resistance is open to all. It is not the resistance's fault if it shines as a result of only a few sons of this people. His eminence said at a reception for the media held by the Committee for Supporting the Islamic Resistance that for psychological and other reasons, some people cannot carry a rifle to confront the enemy and sap its strength, but they can [words indistinct] in words and deeds in the interest of the resistance. He pointed out that this resistance was launched as a result of the spirit and principles of Islam, and as a result of a deep Islamic mobilization, which created a generation of martyrs.

The Hizballah secretary general said that the United States' bias toward Israel—a word that does not do justice to the actual situation—is indisputable. When a martyr blows himself up next to the enemy, the whole world and the United States goes up in arms and does not calm down. He noted the pressures that are being applied on Syria and Iran.

His eminence also commented on the U.S. freezing of the assets of organizations and individuals. He said: The only organization that has assets in the United States, and which must have been informed about the decision before it was taken, is the Zionist Kakh organization. He sees many aspects of the U.S. decision that show hostility toward our nation and feels that it is the beginning of a new [word indistinct] to handle the affairs of the region.

Contacts With U.S. on Security Committee Meetings

NC2801064395 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Newspaper sources have said that contacts have taken place during the past 48 hours between the Foreign Ministry and the Lebanese ambassador in Washington, Riyad Tabbarah, who clarified the nature of the decision by the Council of Ministers. A diplomatic source has been cited as saying that Lebanon will soon inform the U.S. Administration of the Lebanese side's readiness to travel to Washington on the agreed date, that is 6 February 1995, to start meetings with the U.S. side. The source clarified that in his negotiations Ambassador Tabbarah will rely on specialists in the fields of security and air transport. According to sources in the Foreign Ministry, this matter is taking its natural course, away from any media or political hubbub.

In another report, AL-NAHAR newspaper cites a U.S. official as confirming that the United States does not care what name the Lebanese give to the security committee so long as they come to Washington to discuss things seriously. A spokesman for the U.S. State Department said: We still believe that the dialogue will continue, while keeping in mind that the officials in the Department of State have not received a final answer from Beirut on the security committee.

Ambassador Tabbarah met with the chief of the antiterrorism office in the U.S. State Department, who will head the U.S. side to the security negotiations with Lebanon, in addition to Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs.

Envoy Briefs Buwayz

NC3001062895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Ambassador in Washington Riyad Tabbarah yesterday telephoned Foreign

Minister Faris Buwayz and informed him of the American side's desire to focus the Lebanese-American security dialogue on the security of Americans travelling to Lebanon, American diplomats working in Beirut, and the airport. Tabbarah also informed Minister Buwayz that the U.S. side believes that this requires security advisers and a representative from the Ministry of Transport to travel to Washington to offer the necessary explanations. Our diplomatic correspondent says the advisers will travel to the U.S. capital on Thursday [2 February] to prepare, together with Ambassador Tabbarah, for the security dialogue with the American side, which will start on Monday [6 February]. The delegation will comprise Civil Aviation General Manager Riyad 'Abdallah; Brigadier General 'Ali Shu'ayb, head of the airport security division; Brigadier General Ibrahim 'Abbas, deputy chief of Staff for operations in the Army Command; Colonel Karim Wakim from the Internal Security Forces; Colonel Maha Humsi from the Public Security Department; and Lieutenant Colonel Hanna Sa'd from the State Security Department. Our correspondent has also learned that Robert Pelletreau, one of the two chairmen of the American delegation, will open the meeting on Monday by delivering a speech that will focus on the objectives of the dialogue. The speech will not address the issue of the Resistance, because the Americans are aware of Lebanese sensitivity on this issue. Ambassador Tabbarah will respond with an appropriate speech. This will be followed by an explanation from the U.S. representatives for consular and security affairs, the Departments of Justice and Transport, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Al-Hirawi: Israeli Negotiations 'Waste of Time'

NC2801115195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has announced that three years of negotiations in Washington between Lebanon and Israel have not produced anything but were merely a waste of time. He remarked that Israel might not be currently ready to make decisions on peace with Syria and Lebanon.

During an interview with the BBC, President al-Hirawi wondered if Israel would seek peace if resistance operations are halted. He stressed that Lebanon has the right to see UN Security Council Resolution 425 implemented.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's threat to expel the Lebanese citizens from the south, the president said: We have been hearing such threats for the past 20 years. Al-Hirawi pointed out that Israel is the intransigent party in the negotiations.

Asked about the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon, the president declared that this is the Lebanese state's concern and no one else's. He remarked: When we see that there is no longer a need to keep the Syrian Army in Lebanon, we will negotiate with Syria on this matter.

Noting that Lebanon has no nuclear bombs, President al-Hirawi said that it has people who have faith in their homeland. He explained that the precautions taken in the south are in line with the Lebanese Army's resources.

Shams-al-Din Urges Mubarak Not To Sign Nuclear NPT

NC2701142995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the Friday sermon, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, said: The Chamber of Deputies yesterday approved the general budget. We support every trend that aims to promote the countryside. We hope that all the Lebanese areas will benefit from this budget. [passage omitted]

Shams al-Din urged the international organizations to watch the Israeli prisons and the al-Khiyam prison where the Lebanese detainees are being subjected to the most grotesque torture. He called on the Arab and Islamic countries and President Mubarak in particular not to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] before Israel does.

Al-Asad, Yemen's Salih Speak Twice on Telephone

JN2801185495 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 28 Jan (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih spoke twice on the telephone today. They discussed the current Arab situation.

Press on Equal Security Setup in Peace Deal

JN2901083795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Jan

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary on recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the effect that he is working to achieve the kind of peace that would promote his country's security, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Rabin's statements have brought nothing new, because maneuvering and intransigence have become the hallmarks of the Rabin government's peace stand. Besides, Rabin's recent remarks have come in reply to U.S. assertions regarding the U.S. commitment to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region to provide fresh evidence that Israel is still opposed to the peace initiative that produced the Madrid conference and several rounds of peace talks with a view to achieving a just and comprehensive peace grounded in the land-for- peace formula and the restoration of all legitimate Arab rights.

AL-BA'TH adds: Given all this, just peace is bound to be balanced. It cannot be partial or flawed. Security arrangements, which constitute one element of any possible future peace deal, must be equal. No party should be allowed to enjoy special privileges in any such arrangements, as Rabin wishes. Unequal security arrangements are unacceptable.

The paper refutes Israeli arguments regarding security, partial withdrawal, and early normalization of ties, saying that they reflect maneuvering and procrastination, and are aimed at obstructing peace efforts.

The paper concludes by saying: Rabin can keep procrastinating for a long time, but he cannot do so indefinitely. This is because the achievement of real peace in the Middle East is an international and regional demand. Toward that end, immense efforts by several world states must be mobilized in order to achieve security and stability in the region.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the uncompromising Israeli position, which is opposed to the efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace, saying: Israel has rejected all the positive and balanced proposals Syria has submitted to help achieve just and durable peace. It has proceeded with its procrastination and maneuvering to torpedo the terms of reference of the Madrid conference and obscure the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper adds: Given this Israeli procrastination and maneuvering, the chances for peace have ebbed substantially. Moreover, the Israelis and Palestinians alike have discovered that the Oslo accord has not brought them closer to peace, and that Rabin's policies have backfired. For, instead of achieving peace and stability, the region is heading dangerously into the unknown.

The paper concludes by saying that there can be no peace unless the relevant UN Security Council resolutions are implemented, unless the occupied Arab territories are returned, and unless settlement activities are halted and the settlements are dismantled. As for the international community, it has to bring the peace process back on track and make Israel honor the terms of reference of the Madrid conference.

'Source' on Iraqi Contacts, Arab Summit Plans

JN3001110895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 30 Jan 95 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed "exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A ranking Arab diplomatic source has told AL-ASWAQ that Syria has taken large strides in its efforts to hold an Arab summit in Damascus within the next two months.

The source said that Syria has managed to secure Kuwaiti and Saudi approval for Iraq's participation in the summit and that the two countries also agreed that this summit would be to solve the Kuwait-Iraqi problem within an Arab framework and in accordance with international resolutions pertinent to the Kuwait-Iraqi crisis.

The source pointed out that Damascus has also taken large strides in normalizing relations with Iraq during the last month and that the two sides have reached a host of security, economic, and political agreements aimed at restoring normal relations between the two countries.

The source noted that the last high-level meeting between the two countries' representatives was held in the al-Qa'im border area between Ibrahim al-Hasan Sab'awi, director of the Iraqi intelligence service and brother of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Syrian chief of staff and the current head of the Syrian intelligence service. During this meeting an agreement was reached on all the security arrangements and measures that will be implemented once international borders between the two countries are opened, the source added.

The source said that direct contacts between Syria and Iraq are currently underway to arrange for an immediate meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The source also said that the venue of the meeting was not yet specified, but that it is likely to be held in Cairo or Paris. It said that the objective of the meeting is to draw out an agenda and to agree on the results that will be produced by the impending summit.

In the same context, diplomatic sources have told AL-ASWAQ that Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Mubarak, will visit Baghdad shortly to arrange for the Arab summit in Damascus.

The sources suggested that the Syrian-Egyptian efforts are effectively a completion of the agreements reached at the Alexandria summit, which was held in the presence of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz—agreements that aim to solve all Arab differences as a prelude to building Arab solidarity to confront the "Israeli intransigence" on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks.

Afghanistan

Official: Anti-Rabbani Coup Aborted Near Kabul

BK2801154195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jan 28 (AFP)—A planned coup by two former Hezb-e Eslami commanders against forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani north of Kabul was aborted in a pre-emptive strike Saturday [21 January] a senior official told AFP.

"We had information that these two commanders were part of a big plan in which Hezb e-Eslami would try to grab everything between Kabul and the Salang," said defence ministry spokesman Dr. Abdollah.

Two former Hezb-e Eslami commanders, Karim Khan and Agha Shirin Salangi, who had changed to Rabbani's side much earlier, were to switch sides once again and capture Bagram Airbase and the town of Charikar, Abdollah told AFP in an exclusive interview.

[Word indistinct] of the plan, Rabbani's topgun, ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud launched a pre-emptive strike before dawn Saturday, in which as many as 400 former ex-Hezb e-Eslami mojahedin were rounded up and disarmed, according to Abdollah.

He said if the rebels had succeeded the plan was for ex-communist General Abdol Rashid Dostam to attack the Salang Pass north of Charikar, while Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami's fighters were to attack Kabul from the east.

If successfully linked up, these forces would have rendered Rabbani isolated in Kabul, cut off from his supporters in the north of Afghanistan.

Karim Khan, his deputy and four bodyguards, along with another 60 fighters, were arrested Friday evening in Kabul; Agha Shirin Salangi was also arrested in Kabul, one day earlier on Thursday, according to security sources.

During Mas'ud's pre-emptive action the northbound Kabul to Bagram highway was cut for several hours, but Abdollah gave assurances that this road was now open to civilian traffic again.

"There are no problems now between Kabul and Bagram," stressed Abdollah.

This is important because United Nations special peace envoy Mahmud Mestiri together with his political advisor Charles Santos and four others are expected in Kabul Sunday.

Mestiri is flying from Islamabad to Bagram Airbase some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Kabul, from where he will drive to the capital along the road in which Saturday's military cleanup operation took place.

Contrary to popular reports, Abdollah stated that in the district centre of Charikar, located 70 kilometres (42 miles) north of Kabul, there was (?now) fighting between pro-Rabbani troops and the renegade former Hezb-e Eslami fighters of Agha Shirin Salangi.

Abdullah added that the clean-up operation by Mas'ud's men also solved the pressing problem of security along the Kabul-Bagram highway, where some cars and trucks had been stopped and looted by certain members of Karim Khan's and Agha Shririn Salang (?troops).

Meanwhile in the northern provincial capital of Kunduz fighting continued Saturday between Dostam forces and local mojahedin.

Abdollah conceded that Dostam troops had advanced 15 kilometres (nine miles) from their positions near Baghlan to the outskirts of the district centre of Aliabad, just 27 kilometres (17 miles) south Saturday.

He said attacks from the west had been repulsed around Chahardara, but Kunduz city was under bombardment by Dostam rockets and field guns.

Kabul-Parwan Highway Cleared of 'Suspicious' Men

LD2801174995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kabul-Parwan highway was cleared of posts staffed by irresponsible and suspicious individuals. A security source reported to a Radio-Television correspondent that the irresponsible and suspicious posts, which were causing annoyance to the people's movement and preparing the ground for the penetration of the enemies of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, were cleared from the highway.

The source added that a number of corrupt and suspicious people, who were deployed by the enemies of the state and enemies of peace and tranquillity, penetrated a number of these posts along the Kabul-Parwan highway for some time now, in order to cause disruption and discomfort to the people. These elements were captured and disarmed today by the forces of the Islamic Army.

In the course of this clearing-up operation, which started today at 0500 [0030 GMT] and was completed by noon. The Kabul-Parwan highway was reopened to traffic this afternoon. The situation is completely calm in Charikar city and the people are continuing their normal life.

Planning Minister Holds News Conference

LD2801222795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jan 95

["Second part" of news conference by Minister of Planning Seyyed Mohamed 'Ali Javid with domestic and foreign correspondents; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abdurrahim Reja] I am Abdurrahim Reja, a representative of the Ghazali Foundation. Mr. Javid, in his press interview three nights ago, Mr. Hekmatyar said that if the state of Mr. Rabbani would refuse to hand over power, the High Coordination Council would be obliged to resort to the formation of a state. In your view does not this imply disintegration?

[Javid] Yes, we heard this statement, too. First, if the establishment of a state was an easy thing, then everyone would have formed a state somewhere. I think this is a bluff [preceding word in English], and it is not possible for them to form a state. If they had wanted to form a state, they would have made a great political mistake which would have affected them more than others. This would be a very wrong and mistaken act. As a result, if he insists on this issue, he will have taken steps towards the disintegration of Afghanistan. No Afghan wants to have a disintegrated Afghanistan with two or more parts. All our people want a united and independent Afghanistan with united sovereignty. [words indistinct] It will be better for all of us to work for the creation of an acceptable mechanism.

If the brothers and sisters have noticed, the word power was used several times by Hekmatyar. Power, power. He [Rabbani] should hand over power. Why he does not hand over power? Kabul should be demilitarized. If there is interest in power, it is better that this power be transferred through proper channels. Otherwise that power would not be [true] power.

[Phil Johnson, in English] Phil Johnson, the Associated Press. Do you believe that the rise in the power of Taleban represents a threat to Afghanistan's Shi'a community? And do you think the fighting that the Taleban are doing at the movement is helping or stopping the peace process? Thank you.

[Javid] So far, we have not seen such a threat from the Taleban. They have fortunately sensed the fragility of the issue that the a clash with the Shi'a could possibly acquire the color of a interreligious clash and become very dangerous. They have not caused any trouble in the Shi'a inhabited areas, whether in Urozgan or Ghazni or other places, and we hope that the situation will continue in this way in the future, as well.

[Terence White, in English] Terence White from Agence France Press. Recently a British national by the name of Eden Fernandez, who was living with Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan], was captured by Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] and held prisoner for eight months. Can you tell us what move Harakat-e Eslami made in order to have Eden Fernandez released?

[Javid] The gentleman whose name you mentioned—and we had named him Shabir, after he became a Muslim—was not only with Harakat-e Eslami for eight months, but he was with Harakat-e Eslami for six or seven years and fought alongside our mojahedin, who are present here, against the Russians. He was a young man of very good heart and of pure emotions and had also converted to Islam. The fact that he was captured by Mr. Mazari, we call this arrest a completely insolent act. And there were no grounds for his arrest. Therefore, after eight months of captivity, he was released. And during his captivity many efforts had been made by us to have him released. For instance, to the west of Kabul, the boys captured Mr. Mazari's secretary Haji Ali. We thought that a conflagration might occur, so he was released. We had made efforts for his release, and after eight months of captivity fortunately he was released. [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Javid, my question is about the foreign interference in the internal affairs of our country, about which negotiations have been held several times with the other sides but they have not produced a positive result. We saw the bombardment of Badakhshan from the ground and air, and it still continues. I ask whether the state or specifically our Foreign Ministry has a plan in this respect with the other side.

[Javid] I suggest that all nations, especially the Afghan nation, should forget neither the good nor the bad. All good things and bad things remain in the history of a nation. We will not forget the acts of those states and nations that have had friendly and cordial cooperation with us, and we will not forget those who had hostile attitude in the course of our revolution as well as after the victory of our revolution. If at the moment we are not in such a position as to embark on revenge, we can shout: Do not interfere in our affairs, and do not trouble our people! But if we were to be in such a position as to be able to exact revenge, in that case we may well contemplate revenge. [Correspondent] My other question is about the role of the forces now based in Kabul after the implementation of the UN plan under which, naturally, the power transfer shall take place. If these forces stay in Kabul, what will be the role of these forces be in the future government? [words indistinct] [Javid] We have set out in our proposal that all armed units shall leave the city of Kabul and other cities—such as the cities of Mazar-e Sharif, Jalalabad, Herat, and all other cities of Afghanistan—as well as all highways, all ports, and all areas of tension. This should be to such a distance so there will be no possibility of fighting and conflagration, i.e., the weapons-fire does not reach the areas it targets. And the security of all cities—the city of Kabul and other cities—and highways and ports and areas of tension shall be handed over to the interim state. Albeit, the interim state should think how to deploy its security forces in such a way as to ensure the security of the cities. The interim state and the special commission, which will be set up in this respect, will decide about the places where these forces can be moved. [passage omitted] [Laila Yalda] I am Laila Yalda, correspondent of the national newspaper ANIS. Sir, please tell us why words about the peace process are disappearing and now there are talks about a military duel. Tell us if the mechanism the state talks about shall stay a dream or a wish; also if a mechanism is going to be established, please tell us when, tell us its time clearly. Thank you. [Javid] That fact that peace gradually vanishes and war appears more, God willing, the matter is not so. At the moment, the matter of peace remains strong. Mahmud Mestiri may soon visit Afghanistan about this; he will talk about the issue. And we will also raise this issue seriously, so that an acceptable mechanism for the power transfer shall be created and our people are of one voice about this matter. But that the fighting has started, this is out of our power. If Hezb-e Eslami starts fighting in Ghazni or in Konduz, where they started fighting yesterday, well, they started the fighting. About when this mechanism will be created, I hope that this mechanism will be established very soon.

I hope that those who create problems for the peace and reconciliation process will think more about the interests of their nation and shall come down on the sensitivity they have, and then the transfer of power will take place. Anyway, the state is ready for the power transfer, and it also expects that the work of the sources and communities, who make efforts in this respect, produce a result. If they become frustrated and if problems are created in creating an acceptable mechanism, then the state will be obliged to take action to form of such a mechanism for the power transfer to take place. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] I am from the Bakhtar Information Agency. On top of the issue of the power transfer, based on the UN peace process, in a statement last night the Islamic State of Afghanistan proposed that the state is ready to hold talks with the opponents, especially Hezb-e Eslami. What preconditions have the state put forward for the talks, considering the mistrust that exists?

[Javid] The issue of direct talks has not yet been discussed in the High State Council, and conditions have also not been discussed. But the state has always been ready for talks and is still ready. We should never lose faith in talks simply because a few times negotiations did not produce result; to imply then it would never produce a result [words indistinct]. We do not reject talks. But because the other side has so far not shown readiness for talks, we have not discussed the circumstances of the talks. I would add this too, that if the state proposes talks it is for its humanitarian and peace-seeking stance. Otherwise, from the point of view of political and military superiority, the state not only has no worries and fears, but also the position of the opponents becomes weaker every day.

You see the changes that have recently occurred in Ghazni, and even Mr. Hekmatyar has gone to Ghazni. So they face more problems every day. There is no problem from this angle. But we also believe that war is not a solution. No one can annihilate the other by war. Only the problems continue. It is better for all of us to turn to peace.

Rabbani Discusses Current Situation With Gaylani

LD2801172795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, today met esteemed Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the Mahaz-e Meli-ye Eslami-ye [National Islamic Front of Afghanistan].

According to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY, detailed talks were held at this meeting on the country's current situation and restoration of a nationwide peace. Gaylani said: I will take steps along this path with all of my energy and ability.

The meeting was attended also by esteemed Sayyed Soleyman Gilani, minister of border affairs, esteemed Mohammad Qasim, attorney-general, General Mohammad Ayub Asil, Hamid Karzai, Abdol Wakil Akbarzai, and Mohammad Omar Babrakzai. Gaylani today met with esteemed Mowlawi Arsalan Rahmani, deputy prime minister.

According to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY Gaylani met today in his residence a number of cabinet members, some members of the Harakat-e Eslami's [Islamic Revolutionary Movement] Central Council, elders, and high ranking civil and military officials.

Hekmatyar Forces Launch Heavy Attack on Kabul

LD2901172095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia have again started killing and have resumed rocket barrages. A military correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports: For two days Golboddin Hekmatyar's militia have started rocket attacks on the city. As a result of last night's and this morning's rocket barrages on a residential area in the north of the city, 12 people were martyred and 64 were injured. Nineteen of our compatriots' houses were destroyed. A 19-year-old man and two young women and six children are among the martyrs. The other martyrs are of different ages who were killed in their homes during the night. The correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY who has seen the areas where rockets have landed writes: As a result of the landing of a BM type of rocket two houses which were next to one another were destroyed and all their occupants were either martyred or seriously injured. Over the past two days a total of 64 rockets have been fired into Kabul by the militia. The rockets are being fired at a time when the UN peace efforts have reached very critical moments and the hopes of the people about peace have increased compared to any other time. The militiamen want to undermine these efforts by military movements and firing rockets. [passage omitted]

Masud, Communist Forces Launch New Attacks

LD2901195495 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The infamous band of Masud and men of the communist General Babajan have subjected to heavy attacks the positions of the mojahedin of

Kohdaman and Qarabagh [in Kabul Province]. A responsible jihadi source of Kohdaman reported to us that pursuing its adventurist policy, the infamous coalition administration attacked yesterday morning the bases of commander Karim Abed and other jihadi commanders of Kohdaman area. In response all jihadi commanders of the area declared their support for Lieutenant General Karim Abed. Heavy fighting between jihadi commanders and coalition communist forces goes on in Kohdaman. The report says that the control of the Kabul-Parwan highway is with jihadi forces of Kohdaman.

According to another report forces of the hireling coalition have started attacks against the bases of commander Agha Sherin Salangi. And commander Agha Sherin too has announced his support for Kohdaman's mojahedin. It is possible that the fighting may spread to other parts of Parwan Province. It is noteworthy that the control of Parwan radio and TV is in the hand of commander Agha Sherin's mojahedin.

UN Official Mestiri Arrives for Peace Talks

LD2901182495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] UN special envoy Mahmud Mestiri arrived this morning in Kabul. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reported to us that a number of senior state and Foreign Ministry officials received him at Bagram Airport. He is supposed to hold talks in Kabul with authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and jihadi leaders on an (?acceptable mechanism) and on a search for a solution to the problem of Afghanistan and the cessation of war. This is Mestiri's umpteenth visit to Kabul.

Joint Reconciliation Society Discusses Situation

LD2701203995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghanistan's Joint Reconciliation Society, chaired by its secretary, esteemed Dr. Abdol Hai Alahi, held a meeting recently and discussed the country's military-political situation.

The Society has concluded that the present feasible opportunity should be utilized regarding the political solution to the current problem of Afghanistan. A trustworthy transitional administration is to be set up through a commission consisting of the representatives from the belligerent sides.

It is also necessary to form a defense and security mechanism, having the capability to prevent disruption during the transitional period.

India

CBI To Lead Jammu Bombing Investigation

Police Reprimanded

BK2701130695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to hand over the investigation of yesterday's bomb blasts in Jammu to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]. A three-member CBI team is reaching Jammu tomorrow to take up the investigation. The state government has ordered transfers at various levels in police and administration following the incident. They include the Deputy Commissioner and the SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] of Jammu. Besides, two SP's [Superintendent of Police] in the state Security Department have been suspended.

As already reported, more shops and business establishments remained closed in Jammu today following a bundh [strike] called by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] to protest against yesterday's killings. Vehicles were off the roads. The party is demanding the overhauling of the state administration for its failure to ensure security at the Republic Day function.

Pakistan's ISI Blamed

BK2801154995 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Jan 95

[Commentary by Kanchan Gupta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shocking though they may have been, the explosions at the venue of the Republic Day celebrations in Jammu which left at least eight people dead and many others injured are not entirely unexpected. Ever since the secessionists—inspired by their political masters in Pakistan and trained and armed by the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence]—raised their ugly heads to disturb the peace in Jammu and Kashmir there has been every attempt to disrupt both Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations. The purpose behind this strategy is twofold. First, to disrupt the legitimate activities of a sovereign government, and second, to drive fear into the people by making the government look vulnerable. But the strategy appears to have entered the phase of diminishing returns. It goes to the credit of the Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, that he did not allow the explosions to come in the way of his speech. His defiance carries a clear message to the secessionists and their masters across the border that terrorism will not be accepted as a dominant force in the state. It will be fought and defeated.

Some conclusions can be drawn from the incident which should prove instructive for those who are still reluctant to accept the fact that Pakistan was actively involved in sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. First, the ISI, unable to cope with the counterinsurgency offensive in the valley?which has badly mauled the secessionist forces, has decided to shift its focus to Jammu which has still now been relatively free of terrorist activity. It must also be borne in mind that the people of the valley have begun to (?be tired) of the secessionist movement. The false slogan of Azadi [freedom] which was used to fire the people's imagination has lost its popular appeal. Therefore, to keep the pressure up and maintain the insurgency, the ISI and its strategists in Islamabad have obviously decided to expand the area of their activity; hence, the attempt to inject violence into Jammu.

It is also obvious that the ISI wants the world to believe that the secessionist movement is not limited to the valley but the entire state. However, it is precisely this tactics which should expose the Pakistani game plan. If the secessionist indeed enjoyed any support in Jammu, then the people would not have spontaneously responded to the call for a general strike to register their protest against the act of terror on the Republic Day. A second point that can be made is that the ISI and the regime in Islamabad are beginning to show signs of desperation.

With terrorism contained in the valley, the government was moving to the next thing of restoring normalcy to Jammu and Kashmir by encouraging democratic political activity which would be the precursor to elections. This would have meant a serious setback for Pakistan and its designs on Kashmir apart from proving to the world that Islamabad's campaign has been nothing but a never-ending tirade based on lies and half-truths. By engineering the explosions in Jammu in a manner that would fetch the incident the maximum publicity, the ISI has clearly sought to stall the political process and thus delay the elections. Indirectly, it has tried to scare the politicians who are planning to return to the valley.

Ironically, the incident has occurred virtually on the eve of the human rights session in Geneva where Pakistan has time and again tried to present its case on Kashmir, claiming that human rights are being violated in Jammu and Kashmir. The delegates who have gathered in Geneva would do well to take note of the Republic Day incident and the gruesome fallout of Pakistan's misadventurism. The death and destruction brought by the explosions show whose rights are being violated in Jammu and Kashmir and by whom. It would be worthwhile to contemplate as to whose rights are more important—the innocent citizens or the AK-47-wielding terrorists. And what about the scourge of school children who were injured in the explosions. Their only fault was that they were taking part in the Republic Day celebrations of their motherland.

The people of India, let it be known, have weathered much bigger crises during the past four decades. Manmade and natural disasters, aggressions and insurgencies have failed to break the spirit of the republic which celebrated its 46th birthday amidst attempts by forces across the border to disturb the peace. The explosions in Jammu will only strengthen the people's resolve to ward off the external offensive.

Hizbul Launch 'New Operations' in Kashmir

BK2801143095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, Hizbul Mujahidin has launched new operations against Indian atrocities throughout the held valley. Reports say dozens of Indian soldiers were killed and injured during attacks by mojahedin at Sopor, Laulab, Kigam, Dagarpura, Rutlab and Sujan, whereas Indian troops under the veil of siege and search operations martyred 11 more people. A Hizbul Mujahidin spokesman said the Jammu blast on the Indian Republic Day was part of the new operations.

In Srinagar, occupation troops carried out severe military crackdown in Dalal Mohalla and Fateh Kadal. Four people were gunned down in Islamabad District. Mojahedin in their retaliatory attack killed one Indian soldier and injured several others. Severe clashes were also reported from villages in Kangan area. Reports say explosions and rocket fire could be heard, but details of casualties could not be ascertained as the area has been besieged by occupation troops for the past 10 days.

In Hindwara and Uri areas, several Indian soldiers were killed or wounded during clashes with mojahedin. Furious anti-India demonstrations were held in the held valley against Indian repressive activities in occupied Kashmir.

Three Killed in Tamil Nadu Explosion

BK2801103495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Tamil Nadu, three people were killed on the spot and three others injured in an explosion near the Gandhi Market at Tirucherapalli today. A gunny bag containing the explosive was kept outside a transport booking office near the market. Three bystanders sustained minor injuries.

Hindustan Aeronautics Stops Fighter Production

95AS0196A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Dec 94 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Dec 18—The production of fighter aircraft at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has virtually stopped, seriously affecting the re-equipment plans of the frontline combat squadrons of the Indian Air Force.

According to HAL sources, only one MiG-27 fighter aircraft was produced at HAL in 1993-94, as against the scheduled production of 17 aircraft. Even in 1992-93 HAL produced only eight jets, less than half the required number. The MiG-27s are being produced under licence from Russia.

The one MiG-27 which delivered in 1993-94 was not accepted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) as it was "technically not acceptable."

While some experts say that scarce supplies of some components or spares from Russia have affected the production plans, other opine that "serious differences" among the top management at HAL has led to the stoppage of production of jet fighters at the factory.

Meanwhile, the production of the advanced light helicopter (ALH) at HAL has been further delayed by another three years, it is authoritatively learnt.

HAL was using in the ALH prototypes the French turbomeca engine TM 333 B. This could not be matched with the airframe of the helicopter and now HAL is trying to use the American engine offered by allied signals. The engine is designated LHTEC-CTS 800.

A team of allied signals visited HAL a few weeks ago and told the aeronautical experts that they had wrongly chosen the French engine for the helicopter as proper studies were not done. The American engine is being used extensively by the U.S. Army aviation corps, they stated.

The basic requirement of the ALH is about 300 for the IAF, the army and the navy.

The air force has placed another order for 16 more Jaguar deep penetration aircraft with HAL, and first deliveries will begin after about two years and the entire production is expected to be completed in another two years.

Problems of Building Nuclear Submarine Noted

95AS0185A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Dec 94 p 9

[Article by Manoj Joshi: "Naval Research Plan Gets a Raw Deal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, December 14—With the focus mainly on missiles, light combat aircraft (LCA) and Arjun tank projects, important naval research and development (R&D) projects have not been in the public eye.

Some, including sonars and other sensors, torpedos and anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles have crossed valuable landmarks. The most ambitious are, however, the construction of a nuclear-propelled submarine, called the "advanced technology vessel" project as well as the construction of a conventional diesel-electric submarine to an indigenous design and specification.

Like most naval R&D undertakings, these are joint ventures between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy, and given the specific requirements of the project, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Currently it employs no less than two Vice-Admirals and scores of Navy specialists at the headquarters in New Delhi and the site where the vessel is to be fabricated, the Naval Dockyard, Vishakapatnam, as well as the place where the reactor is being readied, the DAE facilities, at Kalapakkam near Madras.

Th [as printed] was ingenious, if a bit stodgy. They decided to engineer one from an existing design of the former Soviet Union, the Charlie II class. Without violating any agreement, the Soviets provided the detailed design drawings minus the reactor design (which would have meant a violation of the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] which the Russians are a party to). To aid the process, India also leased a Charlie II sub from the Soviets between 1988-1991. The idea was to lease the boat, through the period it was being constructed.

Unfortunately, some top naval officials perhaps purposely set the project back by providing the government inflated estimates of its cost of operation and purchase. Not-so-subtle propaganda emanating from the West was taken up by some in India declaring it to be the "Chernobyl" class. The submarine was returned when its lease expired. Given its ability to stay underwater indefinitely and travel at the speed of surface ships, a nuclear submarine especially in the waters of the Indian Ocean is a formidable weapons' platform.

The key challenge in the design is not the hull, but the reactor and its containment vessel which will weigh some 600 tonnes. The hydrodynamics of a vessel with one-tenth of the weight of its displacement concentrated in one area is formidable naval engineering challenge as indeed are the requirements of compacting the reactor itself.

The pressurised water reactor using enriched uranium will be of an entirely new design since India uses only natural uranium heavy water reactors or boiling water reactors. India will have to therefore step up its pilot capabilities of enriching uranium to the scale where it can support a regular reactor of some 40-55 MW.

A nuclear propelled vessel is not a "nuclear weapon." It uses nuclear power to generate steam which turns a turbine which propels the vessel. The steam turbine design and test facilities have already been set up at Vizag. Estimates of annual costs incurred to make the steam generator, coolant pumps and the reactor are of the order of Rs. 80-90 crores.

Given the technologically-demanding requirements of making a submarine, the time taken for the ATV [expansion not given] can be quite long. Submarines cannot have prototypes, the first vessel has to be an operational one. A report of the U.S. Rand Corporation points out that even a country like the United States will take anything up to 12 years to make its latest attack submarine, the SSN-21 "Seawolf."

Design and manufacturing spans for reactor vessels, steam generators, main collant pump, the reactor core could be anything between 2-6 years before the actual process of construction which would take another six years. For India the time could be safely doubled. Which means that begun in 1984-85, the ATV project may begin showing results by 2000 A.D. and beyond.

In the meantime, the Navy has been readying plans to begin work on an indigenously designed diesel-electric submarine using semi-finished assemblies and components from abroad.

Four New Atomic Power Plants Planned

BK3001053695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Atomic Energy Commission chairman, Dr. Chidambaram, has said that four new atomic power plants will be commissioned during the next two years. Talking to newsmen at Dharwar in Karnataka today, he said the first and the second phases of the Kaiga plant in the state will be commissioned next year, while two such plants will be commissioned in Rajasthan in 1997. Besides, the site for setting up the third and fourth phases of the Tarapur plant is being selected and the work is likely to start this year. The total cost of the project is estimated to be 2,000 crore rupees.

Rao Cautions Against Investment 'Overdose'

95AS0199A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Dec 94 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, December 9—Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao today cautioned against an overdose of foreign investment and indiscriminate import of foreign technology and exhorted the Indian industry to lead a "technology revolution" more suited to meet the national needs.

Inaugurating the 67th annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) here, Mr Rao said foreign investment was coming in a "torrent," but there are limits to such investment. "How much of this investment can the country absorb in the enthusiasm of getting funds," he asked.

Mr Rao told the captains of Indian industry that if the country did not define the limits for such investment now, then the coming generations would not forgive us. "There are limits and one has to keep within the limits," he said in his address that drew repeated applause.

On the import of high technology, Mr Rao said there was a need to strike a middle path. No foreign country was going to make available the latest technology to India and even the country's integration into the global economy with the advent of liberalisation would only help it get the "second best," he said.

Mr Rao said he had visited more than 120 countries and nowhere could he find any particular technology which was most suited to Indian conditions. It was very "unfashionable" to say India needed appropriate technology.

Here is where the Indian industry has to lead a new revolution which would give the country an ideal package where we adopt smaller but effective technology that provides employment on a large scale.

The Prime Minister cited the example of how a textile mill could adopt a technology to have a 5,000-spindle capacity giving the same results as that of a 50,000-spindle capacity mill with the quality being comparable to the big mill.

Describing the economic reforms as a success, Mr Rao said since the liberalisation process started in July 1991, as many as 18,000 investment proposals valued over Rs 350,000 crores with potential for 3.4 million employment had been received and they were in various stages of implementation. The new pardigm was quality products at low prices.

He pointed out that while the industries in foreign countries diverted 5 to 6 percent of the sales revenue towards research and development activities, Indian companies spent less than 0.6 percent of their sales revenue in R and D.

The Prime Minister stressed on near equal status of Indian industry while dealing with international companies which would enable them to get the latest technology. If the Indian industry failed to acquire the requisite technology, it should be in a position to generate it itself.

Product research and process research, which are covered by patent laws under the GATT regime, are two things which cannot be separated and India should lay more stress on the latter.

Referring to fears expressed in some quarters that the economic reforms would result in the small-scale sector being gobbled up by the big industry, Mr Rao said there was a need to balance the role of both sectors both of which had their own niches with their individual strengths.

For generation of employment, Mr Rao called on the industry to identify the courses in consultation with the training institutes and colleges for their job requirements. Even though the new education policy had delinked degrees from jobs, there was still a clamour for degrees.

Earlier, the outgoing FICCI president Bansi Dhar called for a government-business partnership in creating venture capital funds jointly with private businesses. There is also a need for facilitating the creation of Indian multi-national corporations with their own world class brand names.

Incoming FICCI president Ajay Rungta expressed confidence that the Indian industry would be able to adopt high technology and at the same time provide large-scale employment.

Editorial Views 'Worrisome' External Debt

BK2701145595 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 24 Jan 95 p 8

[Editorial: "There is a Lesson to be Learnt"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] News that India's total external debt stocks were up to as much as $91.781 billion in 1993, making it the third highest debtor nation in the developing world after Brazil and Mexico, is quite worrisome, though it is true that comparisons with the two countries from the Americas based purely on the absolute level of foreign debt stocks would be misleading. India's considerably larger population than either of these two countries does make such comparisons odious, but the fact remains that every Indian on an average owes the equivalent of over Rs [rupees] 3,000 to the rest of the world. Also, seen in terms of the proportion of exports of goods and services that need to be used to service the debt, India's 28.4 per cent compares poorly not only with its own historical figure of less than 10 per cent at the beginning of the '80s, but with Brazil's 24.4 per cent. That the current figure is a fair bit lower than the 32 per cent level of 1986 may be a comforting thought, but is offset by the fact that it is still just as high as it was towards the end of the '80s, when the crisis that emerged in 1991 was in the making. Another disquieting feature of the country's external debt stocks is the significant proportion of it that lies undisbursed. The country pays a commitment charge on these amounts without actually utilising them and this is one area where India is worse off than Brazil and Mexico. A positive aspect, on the other hand, is the reduction in the short-term component of total debt stocks.

The pronouncements of World Bank officials at the Press conference in which they revealed these figures should also have a sobering effect on the mandarins of North Block [government offices]. The officials, who can by no stretch of imagination be described as anti-reforms, have argued that there is indeed a lesson for India, as also for half-a-dozen other developing countries, in the recent Mexican crisis. The lessons are valid because India, like Mexico, has opened itself up to private capital flows, including those of the short-term variety like portfolio investments by foreign institutional investors. That there is a danger inherent in depending too much on such flows is no more a debatable issue. Mexico's experience has clearly shown just how volatile such capital flows are, even if India's own crisis of 1991 had not clinched the argument. It is here that there is need for abundant caution by the Government. For, notwithstanding the fact that hardly a day passes without some foreign investor proposing to put in huge amounts of money in a project in India, in terms of actual inflows, portfolio investments remain by far the bigger component.

Commentary Notes 'Comfortable' Debt Management

BK2701141895 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Jan 95

[Commentary by S. Sethuraman: "India Out of Debt Trap"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's external debt stood at $91 billion at the end of 1993, and it was the third largest debtor among developing countries after Brazil and Mexico. Unlike the two Latin American countries, which were covered by major debt reduction programs in the 1980's, India has avoided a debt crisis, although in 1991 it encountered a foreign exchange liquidity problem. Since then, with the fiscal adjustment and reforms in progress, there has been a remarkable change in the country's external reserve and balance of payments position. By January 1995, the foreign exchange reserves other than gold were at a record $19 billion. The government managed to keep down the growth in external debt from an average of $5 billion to $6 billion a year to less than $2 billion in 1993.

A surging capital flow—portfolio and equity—coupled with reduced trade deficit has boosted the reserves. India is no longer relying on quick disbursing loans involving conditionalities of significant commercial borrowings abroad. However, the volume of debt, which rose dramatically during the 1980's, necessitates heavy debt servicing of the order of $7 billion to $8 billion through the rest of this decade. Debt servicing in 1993 was 28.4 percent of export earnings, which was relatively high. Exports have to grow faster if the ratio of debt servicing is to be evenly managed. The World Bank, which makes an annual survey of external debt of developing countries, put India in the category of moderately indebted low-income countries. Bank officials say India, now receiving foreign portfolio and equity capital, is not in danger of the debt trap or crisis. But to sustain the capital flows, India has to persevere with macroeconomic and other reforms. It will be advisable to attract more foreign direct investment rather than volatile short-term portfolio flows.

The Mexican financial crisis has reinforced the need for developing countries to promote exports, lower fiscal deficit, and hold down inflation. Although India's debt rose four-fold in the last decade, the Finance Ministry officials are confident that the current economic reform would help to accelerate exports, attract direct investment, and scale down the level of external loans between now and the year 2000. The risks on the external front have been minimized by the sharp reduction in short term debt from the high of $8.5 billion in 1990 to $3.6 billion in 1993. The composition of net resource flows have undergone a radical change in 1993 and 1994. In the fiscal year ending March 1994, foreign portfolio and equity investment flows and global depository receipts issued by Indian companies totalled $4.1 billion. In the current fiscal year, the inflows are expected to cross the $5 billion mark. India is now perceived to be one of the most attractive emerging markets by foreign institutional investors and multinational companies. The Reserve Bank of India has been trying to manage the inflows in a manner that there is no inflationary impact as a result of growth in money supply and the exchange rate of the rupee remains competitive. Despite the volatile elements in portfolio inflows, the finance minister and the Reserve Bank of India governor have asserted that India will not be faced with the Mexican type of crisis.

India's balance of payment position is fairly comfortable at present, but giving the debt overhang and its servicing over the next five to six years, the country would have to achieve an annual export growth of 13 to 15 percent and attract foreign direct investment besides earning from services like tourism. While reliance on short-term debt has been sharply reduced, portfolio flows which are also of short term nature could make the external position vulnerable. Some regulation of capital flows would be necessary, but for durable investments in the economy, the country will have to maintain sound economic management, control inflation, achieve steady growth in exports, and further the reforms process. A major development in international financial market since 1992 is the surge in private capital flows, especially to about a dozen emerging markets. Such flows total $159 billion in 1993 and are estimated $172 billion in 1994. The largest recipients are China and Mexico. Foreign direct investment flows into India also increased in 1994 attracted by the liberalization, opening of more industries, including infrastructure and telecommunications, and the size of the domestic market.

*Elections Chief Suggests Postponing Budget

95P50043A Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 12 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Why Not?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief Election Commissioner Seshan's suggestion that the submission of budget to the Parliament be postponed by a few weeks from the usual schedule of the last working day in February, in view of legislative assembly elections to be held in certain states, is well-founded. His objective is that the budget should not be misused to splurge huge vote-buying privileges in the form of subsidies, by being conveniently available just before election time. It is a fair objective backed by good intention. Infact, the defeat that the ruling party has met in the Andhra and Karnataka states following its "economic reforms," and subsequent hue and cry within the party to give "humanistic Considerations" to the reforms have resulted in great expectations in the citizens, of bounties from the central government. In this context, Mr. Seshan's demand seems welcome as a precautionary measure. Yet, certain other questions also do arise at the same time. The dates for the elections were set by the election commission. Could it not have foreseen this stuation right then? Is Seshan trying to create an impression that his election commission is more powerful than the central govenment? Could this put a spoke in the smooth and synchronized operation of the various parts of the government machinery? There is no need to fear that postponing the budget would affect the government's legislative or governance functions. There are mechanisms to get temporary allowances from the Parliament to meet urgent government expenses. There will also not be any significant loss of income since quite regularly every year the commodity values get raised prior to budget presentation. The current status of the national economy could not accommodate granting subsidies. We have seen the debt/balance of payment details as given by the Reserve Bank to the central government for upto the 9th of December. It clearly shows the acute financial distress the government is in. There are rumors that banks are hesitant to advance loans against the temporary "bills" of the government as collateral. This is another indication that the central government's financial status is not good. In this context, it is impractical for the government to prepare a proper budget. It is possible for officers to be forced to prepare one hurriedly just in order to reap political gains. In a way, Seshan's recommendation might fecilitate them in preparing the budget without any such constraints. The government must give this due and fair consideration.

Details of Charges Against Arjun Singh Disclosed

BK2901084095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I Disciplinary Action Committee has charged Mr. Arjun Singh with defying party discipline and asked him to give a reply to the charge sheet by Monday [30 January]. It rejected Mr. Arjun Singh's demand for a two week time for the reply. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, said in a letter today that the notice period has been reduced by the party president in exercise of the powers vested in him. Mr. Arjun Singh yesterday wrote to Mr. Reddy saying that the authority to reduce the notice period vested only in the Congress Working Committee [CWC].

The letter containing 12 charges against Mr. Arjun Singh was released by the party general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, to the press today. The committee said Mr. Arjun Singh violated all norms of collective responsibility thus undermining the cabinet system. It noted with dismay that Mr. Arjun Singh had repeatedly made deliberate public pronouncements in defiance of the party discipline and brought disrepute to the party and its leaders by distorting facts. The committee charged him with spreading disinformation on the Verma Commission report by alleging that the government is not paying due attention to the commission. It also criticized him for trying to create doubts in people's mind about the party's commitment to secularism and the economic policy of the government. It said Mr. Arjun Singh has been moving around the country defaming the Congress policies and encouraging dissidence with motivated speeches. It said the time has come to check this undesirable activity. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Janardhana Poojary announced that the Congress-I Working Committee will meet in New Delhi tomorrow to discuss the political situation in Uttar Pradesh. Replying to a query, Mr. Poojary said the CWC will have to be told about the party's Disciplinary Action Committee's letter to Mr.

Arjun Singh. Replying to a question, he reiterated that action against Mr. Arjun Singh will not affect unity in the party.

South African High Commission Opens in New Delhi

MB2801171895 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo has officially opened the South African High Commission in New Delhi. In his address Mr. Nzo said the High Commission would play an important role in the development of strong trade, cultural, and political relations between India and South Africa. Shortly after the ceremony Mr. Nzo flew to Japan for a three-day visit.

Iran

Rafsanjani Criticizes U.S. Over Nuclear Issue

LD2801134995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting with the ulema, Friday prayer, and congregational prayer leaders of Tehran Province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the various dimensions of the blessings and achievements of the Islamic revolution of Iran, this miracle of the contemporary world. He emphasized: Iran's Islamic revolution has now secured its status in the world and has been able to offer a strong ideology to every generation by reviving Islam as a religion and as a successful political and social school of thought.

In his remarks, the president considered that the Islamic revolution has laid the foundation for the correct move along the path of true independence in the past 1,000 years of history. He stressed: What makes global arrogance concerned and angry today is the speed and strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran's capacity to build.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about the country passing through a hard era of reconstruction and the stability of the system. He emphasized: It is very difficult to confront the sacred system of the Islamic Republic, which was consolidated through the great support of the nation and which used its domestic capabilities to develop its economic foundation and base it on principles.

The president added: In a world in which bullying and oppression prevail, Iran's independence and freedom is admired and the glory of this strength is fully reflected in the execution of the decisions and policies of the system, within the framework of the achievement of ideals, without fear, and free from the interventions and pressures of global arrogance.

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] When we want to reconstruct our semi-completed [Bushehr nuclear] power station, the U.S. Congress issues an ultimatum warning Russia, a great, powerful country: If you give a nuclear plant to Iran, we ... [pauses] A nuclear plant is a peaceful thing, whereas they have made a pretext out of an issue of war—the bomb. There are many countries in the world today that possess nuclear plants. Some countries get 70 or 80 percent of their electricity from nuclear plants. It is not inherently a dangerous thing, especially if it is supervised by an international agency. It is not something that could be dangerous. It is only because it is the basis of great scientific development and growth that they oppose us. The answer to the rest of this question is the same. [end recording]

The president stressed: If, even after all these years, America is still preventing other countries from establishing and developing relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and is threatening them daily, it is because of the great cultural changes and extensive scientific progress our country has achieved.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the important progress made by the country and the services rendered by the government in the infrastructural development of towns and villages. He said: The big development projects and services which have been carried out since the Islamic Revolution, especially since the end of the [Iran-Iraq] war, have been without parallel in Iran's history and are a matter of pride for the clergy and for the greatness of Islam.

The president considered that people's profound attachment to the Islamic system and the firm support given by the masses to the country's officials show that people recognize and understand realities and that this is one of the tangible advances the country has made. He said it is the duty of all educators and missionaries, notably the clergy, to be alert and adequately informed about contemporary social problems so they can make everyone, including future generations, aware of the valuable blessings and fruits of the Islamic revolution and to oppose with informed logic and reason the cynical and negative thoughts of ill-wishers.

At this meeting, the president also replied to questions about government policies and programs put to him by several clergymen attending the session.

Paper Cites Terrorist Threats Against U.S.

JN2701155395 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Jan 95 pp 20-22

[Report by Riyad 'Alam-al-Din: "A Fundamentalist Plan to Avenge 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman; The Secrets of the Extremist Organizations' Meetings in Tehran, Geneva, and Detroit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicosia—At the U.S. Embassy in Manila, the Philippine intelligence director has been surprised by the extreme calm with which the chief of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, East Asia section was dealing with the information brought by the Philippines security official for expeditious communication to

U.S. agencies. The information was regarded by the Philippine official as extremely important and serious since it revealed a plan to blow up civilian U.S. planes in the air during flights in East Asia. It also revealed that Manila, in the course of its tight security measures during Pope John Paul II's visit, detained three Islamic extremists of various nationalities in possession of explosive materials. Manila also discovered one, or rather two, terrorist plans. The first plan was to assassinate the pope, while the second was to plant bombs aboard a U.S. airliner during an Asian flight. The two plans were closely linked to an extremist fundamentalist organization.

The Philippine security official noticed that his U.S. "counterpart" was mainly interested in the plot to assassinate the pope, attributing the threat to U.S. planes to the Vatican leader's visit. He also considered the primary danger to be aimed against John Paul II.

Actually, the U.S. intelligence service, which for weeks has been increasing and mobilizing its personnel in the Philippines and some Asian countries, was closely cooperating with the Philippine intelligence on the pretext of providing protection for the pope and thwarting any plan to assassinate him.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned that CIA agents accompanied the pope on all his Asian tours and that they warned the Philippine security services against threats to his life. They also provided them with lists of names and pictures of extremist Islamic elements who arrived in the Philippines. Some of them came from the United States. The information confirms that the detention campaign that preceded the pope's arrival in Manila was "directed" by the CIA. Some 15 persons were detained, including eight Iranians who were expelled to their country. In Papua New Guinea, the U.S. intelligence agents played the most important role in the campaign, chasing two Iranian "businessmen" who followed the pope's visit to one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries of the world. After all, there is no economic production or investment to justify the presence of Iranian businessmen in that remote country, which consists of 5,000 tribes that have not yet known civilization.

Even when the Philippine intelligence service uncovered the presence of Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, the person charged with being the mastermind of the New York World Trade Center explosion on 26 February 1993, it was noticed that the U.S. antiterrorism agencies were careful to deny any match between Yusuf's fingerprints and those of the person chased by the Manila authorities.

The Philippines Intelligence Service was trying to decode the ambiguous U.S. stand vis-a-vis the terrorist operations that might target U.S. planes and interests. It is known that Washington used to exploit any danger of this kind to turn it into an international issue. Meanwhile, Western intelligence sources, which are fully aware of the movements of CIA agents in the world, disclosed that for months the Americans have been pursuing the most dangerous extremist Islamic organization in the world. A few weeks ago, the CIA distributed its agents in a number of important capitals to monitor the movements of the members of this international organization which is active in Lebanon, Iran, Sudan, Pakistan, the United States, and some countries in Europe and Latin America. U.S. intelligence did not want to reveal its cards during the pope's visit, because it did not want to foil its schemes and because it was convinced that the terrorist organization is still in the phase of planning its operations. U.S. intelligence believed that if it revealed this organization now the big fishes would not be caught in the CIA nets.

The information gathered by U.S. intelligence, in cooperation with Western intelligence services over the past few months, confirms the existence of an extremist Islamic organization that consists of scores of Arabs and Muslims. This organization, which has infiltrated a large number of countries, is planning to launch a campaign of terrorist operations against U.S. embassies and interests abroad, in addition to targets inside the United States itself.

The information shows that secret meetings have been held at the highest levels, since last summer, to prepare a detailed list of targets, to lay down plans to attack these targets, and to train the commando groups who will carry out these operations.

A Western report reveals that a major meeting was held last October in the Firozi Palace in Tehran. The meeting was held in the presence of the representative of Ayatollah Khamene'i; Iranian Intelligence Minister 'Ali Fallahian; Revolutionary Guard Commander Mohsen Reza'i; Mohsen Rafiq-Dust, chief of the Foundation for the Oppressed, who formed the Jerusalem Forces known as the International Islamic Battalion; 'Imad Mughaniyah, official in charge of Lebanese Hizballh foreign operations; and representatives of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Egyptian al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah.

In this meeting, the Iranians again raised the issue of the continued plot by the forces of world arrogance against the Islamic revolution. They also revealed an American scheme to isolate Iran and to deal a military blow to it in order to destroy its nuclear program and to stop its moves aimed at obstructing the Middle East peace talks. Khamene'i's representative was convinced that the Americans would not abandon their hostility to the revolution and would not stop their attempts to strike at it. He noted that Western European countries have become more moderate in their dealings with Iran and had learned their lesson. The Americans, however, have forgotten what they faced in Lebanon and resumed their activities and pursuit of hostage kidnappers. The Khamene'i representative said that we should retaliate directly in a way similar to the World Trade Center operation.

The representative of the Egyptian al-Jama'ah, who came directly from the United States, quickly understood why he was invited to this meeting when 'Ali Fallahian announced that the best opportunity for this is in the coming months when the trial of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman begins in New York. If they refuse to hand the blind shaykh over to Egypt we can say that our threats have succeeded. But, if they pass a sentence on him we will show them what the world Islamic revolution can do.

Ever since that meeting, certain Western intelligence organs have observed some suspicious moves by the Iranian intelligence service and radical, fundamentalist groups inside and outside Iran. Security reports indicate that the commands of the Iranian intelligence service and the Revolutionary Guard started to coordinate to prepare scenarios and plans for operations set to be carried out and to draft a hit list of American targets worldwide. Commando groups were trained in the camp of Imam 'Ali University. The official in charge of the Revolutionary Guard in Sudan was assigned to train similar groups in a camp near Khartoum that includes Arab, non-Arab, and Muslim fundamentalists.

At the same time, training courses were opened in the Shahr Siyab [name as transliterated] camp which belongs to Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Afghan Islamic Party, who, like Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi, joined the plan in order to defend his friend 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, punish the Americans for forsaking him, and support the "world Islamic revolution." Western reports confirm that Algerian Afghans, who are currently in Afghanistan, have shown some hesitation to join this campaign for fear that it will provoke Washington, which is considered one of the forces that support Islamists in Algeria.

Along with training operations, there have been intensive meetings in some Western capitals to discuss logistical support. A report had revealed that at least two meetings were held to this end. The first meeting was held in Geneva in November and it witnessed heated debates ending in an agreement on the need to avoid American interests in Europe given the difficulty of movement in a stage marked by European security coordination and stringent measures to monitor and chase fundamentalist cells and groups. The second meeting, which attracted the attention of the CIA, was held in a back room of a pizza restaurant in the American city of Detroit. It was attended by representatives of the Egyptian Islamic Group; the Lebanese Hizballah Party; the Palestinian [Islamic] Jihad Movement; fundamentalists bearing U.S. nationality, who are supporters of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman who is the mastermind of the fundamentalist network in the United States; in addition to Arab fundamentalists from Canada. In this meeting, plans were set forth to strike at American targets inside the United States and Canada, including commercial and tourist centers, bridges, and metros in a manner similar to that adopted in the plan revealed by the FBI after investigating the bombing of the World Trade Center in which six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured.

Meanwhile, the Iranian intelligence service revived its "dormant" cells in a number of world countries. It sent new directions to its cultural attaches, most of whom carry out security assignments. What drew the attention of world intelligence and security organs was the their observation of the phenomena of unknown and suspicious cases that were detected in a great number of airports. These cases were sent alone to unknown addresses. Sometimes, they were carried by a traveler to a certain airport and then sent to another airport alone. After long investigations, it was revealed that the Iranian intelligence service was responsible for sending these cases which were intended to test the effectiveness of security measures in airports and on planes and hence lay out a list of aviation companies and airports that have lax security measures, through which booby-trapped cases can pass.

It is known that the FBI has managed to penetrate the extremist Islamic groups in the United States to such an extent that it has detailed reports on their leading symbols, their training camps in the United States, their arms and explosives smuggling networks stemming from the United States and including most world Islamists, and the branches of these networks and organizations in several countries.

The U.S. intelligence services also managed to learn about the structure of the world Islamic network on U.S. territory and the way it spread from North America to Europe, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, and also from the Middle East to Southeast Asia.

It seems that the FBI agents managed to obtain information about a retaliatory plan against the trial of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. CIA agents soon obtained new information on this plan. These agents have maintained close relations with some "Arab Afghans" since the Afghan mojahedin war against the Soviet invasion. They also kept large files on the new activities of these "Afghans" after they left Afghanistan.

Based on this information and on security reports from other countries, it seems that the retaliatory plan against the trial of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has recruited more than 100 nationals from Lebanon, Sudan, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Iran. The plan also mobilized extremist fundamentalist organizations working in Middle Eastern countries which provide freedom of movement or in countries which are somewhat above suspicion and in which the authorities do not take security measures that are hard to penetrate, in addition to the United States.

Information obtained by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI indicates that the commando and suicide operation squads intend to strike at U.S. embassies and interests in some Middle Eastern countries through booby-trapped cars and by assassinating U.S. diplomats. Attention, however, will be paid to remote countries in Latin America such as Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay where Hizballah and the Iranians have important bases, which proved their capability in the Buenos Aires bombing. Other targets are located in East Asia, including the Philippines and Indonesia, and also in Australia where pro-Iranian extremist fundamentalist organizations were recently penetrated.

It seems that the CIA's greater worry is the Lockerbie-style bombing of U.S. civil airplanes, particularly in Asia where the fear of fundamentalist terrorism has not reached the point of having to impose tight security measures. However, some U.S. and Western experts are talking about a more serious and more symbolic scenario in striking at the United States; that is, the possibility of downing U.S. planes using U.S. Stinger missiles. Washington gave these missiles to the Afghan mojahedin during their war against the Soviets but could not retrieve what was left of these missiles. Some Western reports say that in addition to being trained to booby-trap cars and make timed explosive devices, teams of commandos who got their training in Tehran also underwent training to down airplanes using Stinger missiles. It is well known that some time ago, many Western security bodies monitored operations to smuggle Stinger missiles to extremist fundamentalist organizations, some of whom are in Europe, without being able to find out the purposes for them.

Although Washington tried to belittle the seriousness behind the threats conveyed by the Philippine authorities to the Americans, a former U.S. security official told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that the CIA has been following this issue with concern since before the pope's visit. He said that strict instructions were sent to U.S. embassies and companies, especially airline companies, to take their utmost precautions, intensify security measures in all countries of the world without exceptions, and stop moves by diplomats. Moreover, CIA offices in most countries were reinforced and special teams were sent to follow up moves by extremist fundamentalist elements which have recently become active and emerged in the Philippines. Inside the United States, the FBI began to follow up moves by Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's network and prepared a list of names of more than 2,000 extremist fundamentalists who are under strict surveillance. This official added that the CIA was not in a hurry to make a move in Manila because first of all, it wants to collect full information about this network and second of all, it feels it has enough time to make its move as 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's trial is expected to continue for more than a year. This trial is likely to see some surprises which could bring the zero hour closer.

Pakistan Oil Minister Visit to Promote Gas Export

BK3001062495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Anwar Saifullah Khan, the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, met Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran yesterday and conveyed to him a message from President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. The federal minister also held discussions with the Iranian president on the question of the supply of natural gas from Qatar to Pakistan via Iran. Hashemi-Rafsanjani assured Pakistan of Iran's full cooperation in this regard.

Rafsanjani Backs Qatar Gas Transfer

LD3001004895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Anwar Saifullah Khan was today received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and submitted a letter from Farooq Ahmad Leghari of Pakistan.

Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan at this meeting said that the objective of his visit to Iran is to discuss various topics with our country's officials, including construction of pipelines for transferring Iranian gas to Pakistan, cooperation between the two countries in the field of oil, method of participation of contractors from our country in Pakistan's development projects, and creation of processing industries in that country. He also asked for the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation to transfer gas from Qatar to Pakistan through our country.

According to a report of our correspondent, for his part, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the project to transfer the Iranian gas to Pakistan and joint cooperation between the two countries to build an oil refinery in Iran as very significant and serious grounds for economic cooperation between the two countries.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that among the important topics to be discussed during the ECO summit in Islamabad will be efforts for promotion and expansion of regional cooperation within the ECO framework.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also announced our country's readiness for every cooperation with Islamabad to transfer Qatar's gas to Pakistan via Iran.

Consortium To Build 1,600-km Pipeline

LD2801130995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran and Pakistan will establish a joint consortium to build a 1,600-km gas pipeline from the Bushehr Province to Karachi in Pakistan.

Please listen to a report by our correspondent:

[Unidentified correspondent] Following the completion of the technical and economic studies for the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan, the two countries agreed today that they should establish a joint consortium to build the pipeline.

After completion of the legal stages for the establishment of the consortium, its shares will be sold to foreign companies who are interested in investing in the project for the transfer of gas from Iran to Pakistan.

The matter was discussed in Tehran today between Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh and Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, Pakistani petroleum and natural resources minister.

The officials involved in the negotiations for the transfer of gas to Pakistan told the Central News Unit correspondent that Iran will independently invest 2.4 million dollars for producing gas from its Southern Pars reserves in the first phase of the project, as well as 2.3 million dollars for refining gas. Also, between 3.4 million and 3.5 million dollars will be invested through the consortium for building the pipeline.

The pipeline will have a diameter of 48 or 56 inches and will be 1,600-km long. It will be capable of transferring 45 cubic meters of Iranian gas per day from the port of Asaluyeh, near Bushehr, to the suburbs of Karachi in Pakistan.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh said: Iran will be totally responsible for the production and refining of gas, for securing the financing for the pipeline, and even its ownership can be transferred to the consortium.

Informed sources said that Iran and Pakistan are to register the consortium by the next month of Tir [month beginning 22 June 95] and they will invite international investors to participate in the consortium.

In addition to discussing the transfer of gas from Iran to Pakistan, Mr. Khan—who is in Tehran heading a delegation of eight Pakistani oil and gas officials—will also discuss the purchase of oil products and liquid gas and Iran's cooperation in the drilling and extraction of oil and gas in Pakistan.

Turkmenistan's Niyazov Arrives for Talks

LD2901144595 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan arrived in Tehran Sunday [29 January] afternoon and was welcomed by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival at Mehrabad Airport, he said that bilateral and international issues were in the agenda of his talks with Iranian officials.

Niyazov, who heads a top-ranking delegation to Tehran, said that studying the process of laying down pipelines to carry Turkmen gas to Europe through the Islamic Republic of Iran was another topic of his negotiations in Tehran. The project was inaugurated on August 24 at the presence of delegates from Russia, Turkey and Kazakhstan. The project will help Turkmenistan to pipe 10-12 billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas to Europe through Iran and Turkey.

Niyazaov's entourage include Turkmen minister of foreign affairs, minister of oil and gas, minister of commerce and industries, minister of foreign economic relations, minister of transport, minister of energy and industries, the head of the cabinet ministers and the governor of the Central Bank.

Papers View Prospects for Pipeline

LD3001090895 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—Two morning English-language dailies here Monday [30 January] editorialized on the visit to Iran of Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov and said the visit will upgrade cordial ties between the two countries.

IRAN NEWS underlined the significance of the agreement, signed between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan amid the opposition of the U.S. and Russia, for laying down of 4,000-kilometer pipeline at a cost of dlrs. 7 billion of which 1,450 kilometers pass through Iran.

Pointing out that in the post independence era Turkmen officials have traveled to Europe and Asia to promote their country's image, it said, "Turkmenistan has been especially keen on boosting relations with Turkey and Iran, since with the help of these two—especially the latter—it hopes to become a giant in the region."

"It is worthy to note that Turkmenistan's relations with Iran are not merely based on this pipeline. On the contrary, issues pertinent to the Caspian Sea, customs, etc., are also the focus of attention," it added.

The editorial further went on to say that as Turkmenistan has an active role in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Tehran-Ashgabat ties can serve as the symbol of healthy relations for other members of the CIS, promoting them to expand ties with Iran.

IRAN NEWS concluded by saying, "The point worthy of note is that other countries should not conceive of Tehran-Ashgabat cordial relations as a barrier in the way of their own proximity with Iran, since these warm ties will, in the long run, be beneficial for the entire region."

Another daily, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, said that the visit is an indication to the fact that "Iran, in addition to its own vast fossil fuel reserves, could soon find itself as a vital transit route for some of the important gas and oil pipeline projects that are to criss-cross the region."

Saying that Iran and Turkey are to contribute to the Turkmen oil project, which is already being talked about as the pipeline of peace, it hoped "the close cultural and religious ties which bind the said countries or for that matter the other members of the 10-nation ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], would help accelerate the pace of economic development in the region."

It further pointed to the visit of Pakistani oil minister, Anwar Seifullah Khan, to Iran for talks on such issues as building of a refinery in Pakistan by Iran, the proposed Iran gas pipeline to Pakistan and also prospects of yet another pipeline for carrying natural gas from Qatar on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf, to his country.

"Incidentally, the Iranian fresh water project to Qatar is also in the pipeline, which could go a long way in promoting reciprocal good-will among the countries of the region."

"Down South, Iran offers Azerbaijan the best and the safest alternative for transit of its oil and gas to European and other markets."

The editorial said in conclusion, "The day the other ECO members realize the safety of the Iranian trail, the country may soon find itself sitting on the cross-roads of an oil network, designed to irrigate the economies of the region."

Velayati Addresses West Asian States' Envoys

LD2801140995 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—The seminar of Iranian ambassadors to western Asian countries was inaugurated here Saturday [26 January] by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In his inaugural speech, Velayati said that a number of Iran's neighboring countries are located in West Asia and naturally those states enjoyed special relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said that Iran has been successful in pursuing a policy of strengthening and expanding cooperation with the countries located in West Asia.

The foreign minister said that that extensive efforts made so far by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) were now bearing fruits.

In recent sessions of the organization held in Tehran and Ashgabat, officials of ECO member states made imporant decisions which could be the beginning of the organization's great practical steps.

Founded by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, ECO now groups Afghanistan as well as the newly independent republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrghyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Velayati underscored the need to promote economic and commercial cooperation between Iran and West Asian states. He said that Iran should promote its economic ties with those countries and that Iranian ambassadors could play an important role in this respect.

Concluding his speech, Velayati referred to numerous cultural bonds shared by Iran and West Asian states and called for their strengthening.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Lauds Tel Aviv Explosions

NC2901120295 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Jan 95 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Lesson That the Palestinians' Retaliatory Operations Taught Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almost a few seconds after the news on the martyr-seeking operation by two Palestinian members of the Islamic Jihad, Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Gaza Municipality, condemned this brave attempt as a "criminal aggression" and pointed out that it was perpetrated by the enemies of peace. He extended his condolences to the families of the deceased Zionists and prayed to God for the rapid recovery of the wounded.

An hour later, an Islamic Jihad representative contacted AFP and claimed responsibility for the explosion, pointing out that this operation was in retaliation for the murder of three members of the "Palestinian police" who were killed on 2 January by Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip. He also said that the Tel Aviv explosion was a message to the Zionist leaders and added that this operation was a reaction to the expansion of Zionist settlements in the occupied territories.

During the Sunday operations, at least 85 Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded. Thus, since the signing of the 'Arafat-Israeli agreement, 110 Zionists have been killed by Palestinians in anti-occupation operations.

In a rage-filled reaction to the operations, Zionist President 'Ezer Weizman announced: "Enough is enough. This situation cannot continue. It has gone too far." Other Zionist officials also reacted similarly and called for increased action and for specific steps, namely the suspension of the 'Arafat-Israeli agreement.

Thus, by increasing their pressure on the occupiers, the Islamic activists have been able to impose their will on them and to make the Zionists understand that the Gaza-Jericho agreement has not changed anything and that the occupiers should still expect more deadly blows by the revolutionaries.

What is important is 'Arafat's despicable stance in describing the retaliatory operations against the occupiers as a "criminal aggression" and actually apologizing to the savage Zionists. But these operations were revenge for the murder of three members of the Palestinian police, that is, for the murder of three members of the force that is under 'Arafat's command; and had 'Arafat been a brave commander of his forces, he himself should have been the one to avenge these deaths and not describe this brave act as a "criminal aggression."

The most important point is that the Palestinians attacked Israel's military arm and that all those who were killed were members of the Israeli Armed Forces and people who were involved in the crushing of the people in the occupied territories. Thus, the death of the Israeli servicemen can be considered as a serious and effective message to the elements of suppression in occupied Palestine. This attempt showed that the Islamic activists will not show any indulgence in avenging Israel's crimes and that they will directly teach a lesson to the elements of suppression.

It is precisely because of this that the retaliatory operations on Sunday can have determining repercussions on 'Arafat's police and the Israeli military because they simultaneously showed to 'Arafat's forces that the Islamic Jihad and Islamic activists are defending trampled rights better than 'Arafat, and proved to the Zionists that they should take their hopes for an end to anti-occupation operations to their graves with them and to expect a deadly blow from every direction.

During a period of one year, Israel and 'Arafat have exerted many efforts to push the Palestinians toward civil war and to make the Palestinian police a force to crush Islamic activists. But the alertness of the Islamic activists and operations like the one on Sunday have thwarted these efforts.

The Palestinians' retaliatory operation is at least capable of showing the Zionists that they cannot perpetrate any crime they want to without expecting retaliation. When the Zionists were perpetrating the crimes in al-Khalil, Ramallah, Gaza, and so on they should have considered the fact that they would pay for their crimes one day.

Moreover, no Palestinian can be reprimanded for having chosen to punish the occupier. There may be better means to crush the savage Zionists. But the world's freedom-loving people place an emphasis on the just struggle and the respectable defense by the Palestinians and consider them as heroes in the struggle for the freedom and independence of their homeland. Israel also knows this. But it is better for it to know that 'Arafat has never been the symbol of Palestinian resistance. He was and is talented only in "betraying Islamic activists"; and naturally the Sunday operations must have proven very well that even 'Arafat cannot help the Zionists any more.

300 Iraqi Refugees Arrive From Saudi Arabia

LD2901182395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nearly 300 Iraqi refugees, who have recently sought refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran, have been settled at a camp in Varamin [southeast of Tehran].

According to the Interior Ministry director general for foreign nationals and refugees, these Iraqi refugees, who were forced to move to Saudi Arabia at the time of the Persian Gulf war, requested to be given refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of their own wishes and with the assistance of the United Nations. Hoseyni added: All these refugees, as well as another 1,850 Iraqi refugees who had arrived and settled in Iran earlier, enjoy basic services, shelter, and medical facilities. He stressed: Although we believe in the policy that foreign refugees should return to their homes—which has so far applied to 1.160 million people—Iran will spare no effort in helping new refugees in sensitive circumstances.

Jannati Sermon Addresses Inflation, Profitteering

LD2701162395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0730 GMT 27 Jan 95

[Friday prayers second sermon given by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the imam's representative on the Relief Committee and member of the Guardian Council, in Tehran—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

We have many events and anniversaries coming up, and I would like to start this sermon with a brief reference to each of these. Then, I would like to speak about an important topic which I have in mind. [passage omitted]

Another upcoming anniversary is 8 Bahman [28 January], which is the 1,000th day of the siege of Sarajevo. On 8 Bahman, this Muslim-inhabited city and this center of an Islamic state will have been under siege by the occupying Serbs for 1,000 days merely because its people are Muslims. One must say bravo to the resistance of these people which has continued for 1,000 days and which still continues, despite all the disloyalty shown by some of their own people and despite all the enmity shown by their apparent and latent foes. These enmities still continue. The United States is their enemy in one way, Britain in another way, and France and Russia in yet another different way. Nevertheless, these people are standing firm. Bravo to them!

In honor of the martyrs of Karbala, who sacrificed their blood for the sake of God and religion, I pray to the almighty to grant these people [the Bosnian Muslims] victory. [congregation chants support]

We must give these people any help we can; be it political support or economic and financial assistance. Praise be to God, our people, the government, and the eminent leader have given these people valuable services. They are well aware of this help, and they have always expressed their gratitude. This assistance and services continue.

I wish now to discuss an issue of the day in this sermon before we begin the Friday prayers. I have been told to end the sermons by 1230 so that the sermons do not take the prayers' time. I do not personally wish to make the sermons any longer than necessary. I have said this repeatedly. However, this is not always possible and sometimes we have to start the prayers later than the scheduled time.

The issue I am going to discuss, is the problem we face today. The more I try to avoid discussing this problem, the less I seem to manage. I simply cannot ignore this problem. You have seen recently that a group of bloodsucking capitalists, these ruthless and brutal individuals, have now directed their capital into buying and selling [the Spring of Freedom gold] coins. They are buying, accumulating, and hoarding these coins. As a result they have created an artificial black market for the coins. The price has suddenly doubled its original value. God knows how much the price will rise in the future. This has affected the price of foreign currency too. Despite the government's measures to control the price of hard currency, this wicked action has affected the foreign currency price too.

We have turned into individuals whose daily life is influenced by the price of hard currency. The price of everything, from green vegetables to potatoes, onions, candy, and dairy products, is affected by the hard currency rate. Wherever you ask for the price of any commodity, they immediately raise the issue of foreign currency prices. The currency automatically is affecting every other prices.

Frankly, serious thought must be given to this problem in general, that is, the problem of inflation and price rises. However, I must say at this point that a group of state officials are serving the nation very well. They are working hard and we do not wish to be unjust to them by ignoring their services and by being ungrateful to them. His Excellency [President Akbar] Hashemi [Rafsanjani] is doing well. He is seriously tackling the problem of profiteering and he is also working hard to secure the country's future. Briefly, he is working very diligently. There are some sincere individuals in the regime who are working well. However, there are some in the same state apparatus and a group of capitalists whose work is wasting the efforts of the rest. They do something to minimize the result of the [state officials'] efforts.

There is a group of rich people who have huge amounts of money at their disposal. How did they acquire such large sums? The answer is clear: They amassed their wealth by exploiting the chaotic market of the war era and the postwar period. They resorted to the same wicked deeds of hoarding and creating black market to make so much money. Their daily transactions easily top a billion [rials]. They wait to see what is the best alternative for their investment, to give them a quick return several times greater than their original investment. They do not care what happens to the public in such transactions. This is the way they act and one example of it is the buying and selling of gold coins. [passage omitted]

I do not understand the mentality of these people. What sort of creatures are they? See how a man, in love with mundane matters, can forget his honor, his prestige, his morality, his God, and the future. Now that you [the rich] have so much money that it will be sufficient for you and for several generations of your descendants even if they never do any work but live on your amassed wealth, why are you still so greedy that your greed of adding to your wealth is creating problems for helpless and destitute people?

We receive pleading letters from the poor. It breaks one's heart to read about the plight of these people. At the same time one does not know what to do. God bless the imam's relief committee and other charities which help the poor. We often ask them to help. They are a glimmer of hope, but their resources are limited. They offer assistance, but not every one is willing to receive assistance from the imam's relief committee. Anyway, there is a limit to what the charities can offer as assistance.

There are unemployed individuals. Shortly before I came to the pulpit I was reading a letter from an unemployed person. He wrote of his predicament, saying: I have no job. My life is in a mess. I am desperate. Please do something to help me!

I receive many such letters from Tehran, from other cities and villages. On one hand there are people like these who are desperate for their daily bread. On the other hand there are individuals who make 10 or 20 billion rials in a single transaction.

I do not know why they are doing this. But it seem that when one is drunk with the greed for money, he does not understand anything else. Such individuals do not understand anything but the language of the whip. Our state apparatus must deal decisively with such individuals. [shouts of approval from the congregation]

Please let me finish. You may be able to make a wolf watch television or listen to a sermon at the mosque, and you may tell him: When you leave don't kill the lambs and don't rip apart the sheep because they are useful for the people, they produce milk, they have an owner, and they are innocent. Even if you sing him a thousand verses from the Koran, the teachings [of the saintly imams], poetry or story, he will be the same wolf as soon as he is outside. What can you do? Showing mercy to the wolf is no mercy to the sheep. Showing mercy to such people is a weakness. I tell all the individuals responsible for this issue to be pious and to fear God. You are good yourself but you are failing to deal with some of the exploiters. [passage omitted]

We have suffered much because of our failure to be firm. With this problem of high prices our judicial establishment is able to get hold of these bullies. But as soon as steps are taken, someone interferes. Fighting high prices does not concern the owner of this corner store or that bazaar merchant. Much of the corruption comes from state organizations which make false documents, fail to show their profit and loss, hide their warehouses, and hoard their products to sell at higher prices. In this so-called self sufficiency, which is causing wretchedness, everyone is thinking for himself and trying to make money from here or there to survive. If we don't deal with such people there won't be anyone else to deal with. Our judicial establishment is ready but certain groups are preventing it. I tell them to fear God, let the judge do his work; allow the unprejudiced implementation of social justice and don't let the people, these Muslim kids and the hezbollahis, lose hope. Don't make a mistake, and if you do be ready for punishment, for law, and for judgement.

There are some people who throw a wrench in the work of those who, day and night, try to save the country and protect its future. One group works so hard, another destroys the outcome.

Large sums of money...[Jannati pauses] I do not understand what is happening. On one hand they import cars. Why do they allow the import of so many cars, so many luxury cars! Each of those cars driving down the street is like an arrow fired between the eyes of the poor. The poor think: I do not have enough money to buy a bicycle and so and so is driving an eight million [tuman] car. On one hand they allow the import of such cars—they are not all imported illegally—and on the other hand our car manufacturing plants are working only up to one-third of their capacity. What can you expect? We should take the matter seriously. We should attend to these matters. Any person who may have any information about such matters should inform the authorities and the inspection organs should deal with such matters in a strong way. [passage omitted]

Majles Begins Budget Discussion

LD2901133295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As you heard earlier in the bulletin, a discussion of the first reading of the budget bill for 1374 [next Iranian year, beginning 21 March 1995] began in today's open Majles session. The session examined the report prepared by the joint budget and planning and finance, economic affairs, and cooperatives commission on the first reading of the budget bill for the forthcoming year, and the deputies presented their views for and against. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Discussion of the first reading of the country's budget bill for 1374 began with the rapporteur of the joint budget and planning and finance, economic affairs, and cooperatives commission presenting an analysis of the revenues approved by the commission and explaining the special features and new aspects of the budget bill.

He said the country's total budget for the forthcoming year will be 97,457,641,541,000 rials and the general revenue will be 43,515,709,000,000 rials. He added: The budget, which has been approved by the joint commission, is 2,186,531,223,000 rials more than the amount proposed by the government in its budget bill.

The rapporteur also said: The revenue from the sale of oil in 1374 will be more than 25,113 billion rials; this is the same as the figure proposed by the government. Tax revenue has been foreseen as 7,862 billion rials. Mr. Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht explained: As this will be the first budget under the second [five-year] development plan, efforts have been made to ensure that it falls within the plan's aims and guidelines.

He mentioned the correspondence between next year's budget and the second plan law regarding the provision of $1.25 billion in subsidies for essential goods and $420 million for medicines as one of the special features of the budget bill. Among other special features he named the following: the repayment of $1.6 billion of foreign commitments; the provision of 800 billion rials in credit in order to increase the salaries of government employees; imposing limitations on the rate of inflation and the amount of liquidity; and the allocation of special credits to improve underprivileged rural areas, in addition to the foreseen development funds.

The rapporteur mentioned the following as new aspects included in the budget bill for the first time: attending to the budgets of government companies; stipulating provincial budgets and assigning them a position within the country's overall budget; and preventing an increase in the level of the foreign exchange commitment reserve account [as heard].

In today's open session, the deputies who spoke against the budget bill said: Next year's budget bill is not in keeping with the second development plan. It relies on revenue from the sale of oil; and there is no balance between revenues and expenditures. These deputies also described next year's budget as inflationary and criticized the fact that the budgets of government companies and banks are not [as heard] examined; that the current budget shows a greater increase than that approved under the second plan without any justification; and that there is no clear mechanism for collecting taxes.

Deputies in favor, for their part, described next year's budget bill as being in keeping with the aims and guidelines of the second plan, and spoke of the following as being positive features of the budget for 1374: The allocation of credit to provide essential goods and medicines; the fact that the foreseen revenues are realistic; the repayment of foreign commitments; attention to nonoil exports; decentralization [developing areas other than Tehran]; and attention to social justice and the removal of deprivation.

The Majles deputies will resume their discussion of the first reading of the country's budget bill in a few minutes, today's open Majles session continues.

Majles Approves Amendments to Satellite TV Ban

LD2901124695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to a report by our Majles correspondent, a bill on a cultural agreement between the Government of the

Islamic Republic of Iran and the Government of Malaysia was debated in today's open session of the Majles. [passage omitted]

The bill on the banning of equipment capable of receiving satellite television programs was also debated. The Guardian Council had returned the bill to the Majles. The Majles deputies approved all the amendments requested by the Guardian Council.

Pakistan

Government Approves Intelligence Bureau Expansion

BK2901122395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 29 Jan 95 p pp 1, 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD—In a major move, the federal government has approved an unprecedented expansion in Intelligence Bureau (IB) by creating 24 new posts in grade 20 to extend its activity to the sub-division level, sources in the PM [Prime Minister] Secretariat told THE NEWS.

The expansion, which has been also approved for grades lower than 20, is three times more than the existing posts.

The sources said the plan was approved after Prime Minister's meeting with IB chief Masood Sharif who recently briefed her on his proposed plan to broaden the agency network. The aim is to check anti-state terrorist activities.

The sources, however, pointed out that the IB expansion was without the consent of both the Finance Ministry and the Establishment Division which are supposed to give financial and administrative approval respectively.

Another source said a number of meetings on the subject had been held between the IB and the Establishment division and the latter ultimately turned down the idea. The establishment Division was surprised when it received the Prime Minister's approval of the expansion plan, the source said.

A most interesting development is that the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP), which dominates the agency, will not get any share in the new posts. The source quoted the IB chief as saying that posts were created for the department cadre of the IB and no police officials will be appointed on these posts.

Recently, the Central Selection Board (CSB) recommended promotions of 21 (grade 19) PSP officers as DIG [expansion unknown] expecting their accommodation in the new IB set up.

Out of the total 21 promotions recommended by the CSB, 12 were proposed against the new 24 vacancies in the IB. Since the IB Chief was refusing to give half of the new posts to PSP, the CSB recommended the conditional promotion of 12 officers.

A CSB member said that some of the Board members argued that the PSP should be adjusted in the new set up. The CSB first met on January 16 but ended up inconclusively because of the same confusion—whether the IB will give 12 posts to PSP or not. Only three days later on January 19 the CSB again met and recommended the above mentioned promotions.

To get these recommendations approved by the Prime Minister, the sources said, all out effort is being made to get the share of PSP from the IB chief who himself is a non PSP officer. However, he is occupying the post of DIB [Director of Intelligence Bureau] which is the only grade 22 post included in the PSP cadre.

There are reports that recently a meeting was held in the PM Secretariat to settle this controversy but the outcome is still awaited.

Indian Republic Day Charges Said 'Baseless'

BK2801135695 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan 27—Pakistan has termed the Indian allegation regarding Pakistan's involvement in blasts on India's Republic Day reception in Srinagar on Thursday [26 January] as baseless and unwarranted. Pakistan warned India that the incident should be taken as an eye opener that the Kashmiris struggle was indigenous and could not be suppressed by force.

Reacting to the allegation levelled by the Governor of Occupied Kashmir Gen (Retd) K Krishna Rao made at a press conference to the effect that the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] had planned to assassinate him and his advisors and Dr Farooq Abdullah, a spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office said Friday afternoon that these charges on the contrary explain India's failure to crush the Kashmiri people's struggle despite five years of massive oppression. He said Kashmir people's struggle was indigenous and India would have to respond to the wishes of Kashmiri people.

U.S. Criticized for 'Quiet Diplomacy' on Kashmir

BK2701132195 Islamabad THE NATION in English 27 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Beyond quiet diplomacy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Congressional Sub-Committee was told that Defence Secretary William Perry had raised the question of human rights with the Indian government "quietly" and without "going into details of history". Joseph Nye, who had accompanied Perry to the Sub-Continent, in an appearance before the House Sub-Committee on Asia and the Pacific also spoke about the "entirely different perspectives" in which Pakistan and India saw the Kashmir issue. He, however, admitted that the US did not have a specific solution to bridge the gap between the two mutually exclusive positions on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan, he said, was willing to cooperate with the US in dealing with the drug menace, despite the "very stern treatment" given by the US legislature on the nuclear issue, albeit the Pakistanis were critical of the US policy of punishing Islamabad for its nuclear programme while giving a free hand to India. On the face of it, the House Sub-Committee has been given an objective appraisal of the areas of concern and conflict in South Asia, and the Pakistani view has been adequately projected. If it reflects the US administration's understanding of the regional scenario, it is a hopeful sign of a more sympathetic appreciation of Islamabad's predicament in the wake of New Delhi's hegemonistic designs and Washington's arbitrary sanctions. Nonetheless, it is not enough to acknowledge that there is substance in Pakistan's grievance of a raw deal.

The US cannot acquit itself of the role it aspires to play as the reigning superpower by taking noncommittal, wishy-washy stands on major issues of discord in the region. The Americans will have to go into the 'details of history' rather than resorting to quiet diplomacy if the record is to be set straight on the Kashmir issue, and a genuine effort made to settle the dispute. And some concrete policy measures will have to be adopted to rectify the wrong being done to Pakistan under the Pressler Law. By all accounts, the US does not any longer see Pakistan as 'politically unreliable' and is keen to renew old ties of friendship and cooperation, but it is still hesitant to find a way out of the impasse in relations created by the imposition of high-handed sanctions against Pakistan. If there has been any change of heart in Washington towards Pakistan, it will not be accepted as a genuine reassessment so long as it does not find a tangible expression in the US policy vis-a-vis South Asia, particularly with regard to Kashmir and the nuclear question. And the US will have to go beyond 'quiet diplomacy' in pursuit of peace and stability in South Asia to live up to its promise of the 'New World Order'.

Country's 'Biggest-Ever' Drug Seizure Reported

BK2901124195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 29 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar—The law enforcing agencies in a late night operation made Pakistan's biggest-ever narcotic seizure in Khyber Agency, bringing into full swing the government's anti-drug campaign that began with the freezing of drug barons' assets.

"I don't think there has been a bigger seizure in the whole world", a beaming Political Agent [PA] Khyber Agency Amjad Ali Khan told THE NEWS after about 4,000 law enforcing personnel in one of the biggest raids recovered 165 tons of hashish and 480 kgs of heroin from drugs manufacturing and storage sites in Alam Gugar, Bara, about 15 km south east of Peshawar late Friday [27 January] night. The Inspector General of Frontier Corps [IGFC] Maj Gen Fazl Ghafoor whose three and a half wings of 2,100 men took part in the operation said, "We did not want to take chances, the Afridis are more militant."

Not a single bullet, however, was fired as the law agencies rounded up 19 people, ten of them from Punjab. They are being interrogated at Shah Kas Frontier Corps Fort for connections.

Commissioner Peshawar Division Gulzar Khan told THE NEWS they were looking for a suspect known as Hussain. He hinted that more such operations were expected in the near future.

The seizure triggered enthusiasm in the provincial administration prompting Governor NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Maj Gen (retd) Khurshid Ali Khan to visit the fort and commend the law personnel. The Peshawar-based American Cosnsul Richard Smyth and US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) official, however were the first to arrive there along with the Political Agent. "This is really amazing", the US diplomat said.

The IGFC said the troops were mobilised at 11:30 pm and the operation was effectively launched at 1.30 am. He informed that telephone and power supply to the entire Bara sub-division were disconnected and all the roads were blocked. The operation concluded at 5:30 am. "Secrecy, intelligence and deception", he said, "were the three main elements in the success of the operation."

Fazl Ghafoor who won fame for successfully quelling TNSM [Tehrik-i-Nifaz-i-Shariat-i-Mohammad] insurgency in Malakand division in November last year said he had to take far more troops than required to meet any resistance from the Afridis. The seizure also included one anti-aircraft gun, a 12.7 mm gun, an Egyptian made G-3 and eleven Russian Kalashnikovs.

The governor said the case would be handed over to the federal interior ministry for further investigations through the federal intelligence agencies. He debunked claims by the tribals that hashish was being produced under a tribal-government agreement. "There is no agreement that they can allow hashish production."

Commenting on a demand by a tribal religions organisation, Tanzim-e-Ittehad Ulema Qahail, that the impounded drugs be returned to them, Khurshid Ali Khan said, "I would not like to be a follower of such mullahs who make such demands." He also debunked political authorities earlier claims of non-existence of drug factories in the tribal areas. "I don't think any person in a right frame of mind can make such a claim. This a running battle".

The seizure included silver foils with marking of Makin' Cajun-Cajun Sauce and Oriental Clerics Vegetable with Sauce for Chaumein Dinner. The DEA official said similar foils had been recovered in raids in Swat and

Balochistan. The foils, the IGFC later said were used to stifle what the PA called 'stinkingly sweat smell' of hashish.

Omani Minister Arrives, Refutes Gwadar Report

BK2901155295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Omani minister of commerce and industry, Mr. Maqbul Bin-Sultan, has dismissed reports published in a section of the Pakistani press that the port of Gwadar has been leased to Oman.

On his arrival in Islamabad this afternoon to attend the second joint committee meeting of the two countries, he said the private sectors of both countries are setting up a joint company and it is up to the shareholders to decide if [it is] feasible to invest in a project at Gwadar. Talking to a group of journalists, he said so far no investment has been made.

[Begin Bin-Sultan recording] I would say Omani (?entrepreneurs) and the Pakistani private sector to work together, whether it is in Gwadar or Karachi or Lahore or anywhere else in Pakistan. Up to now, no investments have been done. In fact, if you ask me, I would encourage them to invest. [end recording]

In reply to a question regarding a gift of land in Balochistan, the Omani minister said:

[Begin Bin-Sultan recording] Yes, the gift was given to his majesty. A land of hundred acres, and his majesty has accepted this land. I think, this is a very, very normal thing to do. If you think it is not, I would like to know what it is. [end recording]

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